connected with that warm and eager interest which he ever felt in the progress of knowledge, and with the deference with which he received new facts and suggestions from any quarter.

The qualities, apparent in his connection with American geology, were equally valuable in his relations to science in its general aspects. A man so gifted, fortunate in his genius, his education, his outward circumstances, and in his appearance on the stage at a time when geology had gathered in some of its great harvest of facts, and was waiting for a master-mind to arrange them, had a great opportunity, which Lyell had the energy and ability to seize. He was thus able to become a guiding mind among his contemporaries in geological theory, and to hold his pre-eminence down to the end of his life, and through all the great changes which occurred in the rapid development of the science.

Such was the man whose life and works we commemorate this evening.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE ROSS INSTITUTE AND THE LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND TROPICAL MEDICINE

THE *British Medical Journal* states that a printed memorandum on the proposed amalgamation of the Ross Institute and Hospital for Tropical Diseases with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine has been issued by Sir Charles McLeod, chairman of the institute. On the death of Sir Ronald Ross he considered it his duty to make a special inquiry into the organization of the institute, so as to ensure that it would be a worthy memorial to a great man, but before that could be completed there came a proposal for amalgamation with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. The question was first raised by the Goldsmiths' Company, which, before giving a grant to the institute, asked for an assurance from the honorary treasurer, Lord Queenborough, that there was no overlapping of the activities of the school and the institute. At an informal meeting between Sir Austen Chamberlain, the late Sir Walter Fletcher, members of the board of management of the school, and Lord Queenborough and Sir Charles McLeod, representing the institute, it became clear that overlapping occurred widely in the field from which support for both bodies was obtained, and that possibly there was overlapping in other activities. Since that date there have been a number of discussions. Early in their course a large measure of agreement was found, both on fundamentals and on details, and an assurance given that in the event of amalgamation the school would accord the work of the institute its fullest support, both for its own sake and as a memorial to Sir Ronald Ross.

As a result of these discussions, the Board of Management of the School and the Executive Committee of the Ross Institute have decided on the desirability of the amalgamation; and I am issuing this memorandum to explain to members of the institute the reasons which have induced me to come to the conclusion that amalgamation should take place, how it will affect the objects for which the Ross Institute was founded, and something of the school and its associated hospital with which amalgamation is proposed.

Sir Charles McLeod recalls particularly that in the reorganization which led to the creation in London of a great school of hygiene that would be of value not only to Britain and the British Empire, but to every part of the temperate and tropical zones, the long association of the London School of Tropical Medicine and the Seamen's Hospital Society was preserved by a special agreement, which provided that research and clinical instruction should be carried on in their Hospital for Tropical Diseases in Endsleigh Gardens, a few minutes' walk from the school. Turning to the origin of the Ross Institute, he describes how, in addition to being a memorial to Sir Ronald Ross, the fundamental idea was again work for the benefit of mankind. Although the histories of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the Ross Institute have been different, and although each has been developed on somewhat different lines, their fundamental objects, he says, have been identical, and their spheres of work are found to be complementary.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHEMICAL RECORDS

Industrial and Engineering Chemistry publishes a note by Dr. Austin M. Patterson on a 20-page pamphlet entitled "Recommendations of the Experts Assembled in Paris, September 19 to 20, 1932, by the Office International de Chimie." The office was created by international diplomatic convenant and began to function in 1932. Its headquarters are in Paris. It proposes to study the organization of chemical records, to promote cooperation between the centers of such records in the different countries and to facilitate exchanges and loans.

The delegates present at this first conference were: F. Donker Duyvis, Netherlands; P. Dutoit, Switzerland; F. Haber, Germany; E. Hauser, Spain; C. Marie, France; N. Parravano, Italy; G. Peny, Belgium; J. C. Philips, Great Britain. J. F. Norris,

delegate from the United States, was unable to attend. Representatives of organizations present were: J. Gérard, International Union of Chemistry; D. Secrétan, International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation; P. H. Chase and G. Riedberg, International Chamber of Commerce.

The conference voted that, in view of the great importance and variety of the literature and other records, it is highly desirable that the office establish permanent coordination and cooperation among the various centers over the world, and that it strive to make the accumulated documents available to searchers.

The field is divided into pure chemistry and applied chemistry (plant and laboratory, combustibles, inorganic industries, organic industries, agronomy and agricultural industries). Among the "documents" are included not only books, pamphlets, periodicals, charts, patents and manuscripts, but laboratory and plant products, equipment, models, photographs, films, disks, etc.

The Office International de Chimie has, according to the experts, three principal tasks: (1) to render accessible the documents already existing; (2) to assist in improving their production, indexing, preservation and distribution, and (3) to assure coordination between chemistry and other fields in this matter. Under (1), various international indexes and collections need to be established. Under (2), the most appropriate technics need to be studied and a knowledge of them diffused. Under (3), the office will represent chemistry in a general coordination and improvement of the records of scientific knowledge as a whole and in avoiding overlapping the sciences. Other topics considered were the safeguarding of the rights of authors and publishers and the lowering of the cost of scientific publications.

The office is engaged in the preparation of an international index of centers of chemical records which will give exact information as to the nature of each center and the services which it renders. It will be published in book form.

COMMITTEES OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

AT the August meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, President Whitehead announced the committee appointments for the administrative year beginning August 1, 1933. The chairmen of the general committees are as follows:

Executive: J. B. Whitehead (president of the institute), dean of the faculty of engineering, the Johns Hopkins University.

Board of Examiners: H. Goodwin, Jr., consulting engineer, Philadelphia.

Code of Principles of Professional Conduct: C. E. Stephens, vice-president, Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company, New York.

Columbia University Scholarships: W. I. Slichter, professor of electrical engineering, Columbia University.

Constitution and By-laws: W. S. Gorsuch, engineer of economics, Interborough Rapid Transit Company, New York.

Coordination of Institute Activities: E. B. Meyer, vice-president, United Engineers and Constructors, Incorporated, Newark.

Economic Status of the Engineer: C. O. Bickelhaupt, assistant vice-president, American Telephone and Telegraph Company, New York.

Edison Medal: C. E. Stephens, vice-president, Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company, New York.

Finance: E. B. Meyer, vice-president, United Engineers and Constructors, Incorporated, Newark.

Headquarters: W. S. Gorsuch, engineer of economics, Interborough Rapid Transit Company, New York.

Iwadare Foundation: F. B. Jewett, vice-president, American Telephone and Telegraph Company; president, Bell Telephone Laboratories, New York.

Lamme Medal: C. E. Skinner, Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania.

Legislation Affecting the Engineering Profession: W. I. Slichter, professor of electrical engineering, Columbia University.

Membership: Everett S. Lee, engineer in charge, General Engineering Laboratory, General Electric Company, Schenectady, New York.

Advisory Committee to New York Museum of Science and Industry: John P. Jackson, manager, Department of Personnel and Statistics, Manhattan District, New York Edison Company, New York.

Popular Science Award: Harold Pender, dean, Moore School of Electrical Engineering, University of Pennsylvania.

Award of Institute Prizes: R. N. Conwell, transmission and substation engineer, Public Service Electric and Gas Company, Newark.

Publication: E. B. Meyer, vice-president, United Engineers and Constructors, Incorporated, Newark.

Public Policy: H. P. Charlesworth, assistant chief engineer, American Telephone and Telegraph Company, New York.

Safety Codes: F. V. Magalhaes, General Electric Company, Lynn, Mass.

Sections: I. Melville Stein, director of research, Leeds and Northrup Company, Philadelphia.

Standards: A. M. MacCutcheon, engineering vice-president, Reliance Electric and Engineering Company, Cleveland.

Student Branches: L. A. Doggett, professor of electrical engineering, Pennsylvania State College.

Technical Program: R. N. Conwell, transmission and substation engineer, Public Service Electric and Gas Company, Newark.

Transfers: J. Allen Johnson, chief electrical engineer, Buffalo, Niagara and Eastern Power Corporation.