

#### SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF ENGINEERING EDUCATION

This was the fortieth anniversary meeting of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education. Numerous conferences were held on a wide range of subjects including: The teaching of English, drawing and mechanics; coordinated engineering courses; co-operative engineering education, a subject particularly difficult on account of disturbed economic conditions; and industrial engineering. Various problems relating to the different engineering courses and to advanced education were discussed.

The presidential address of R. A. Seaton was on "The Future of Engineering Schools on the Economic Life of the Country."

At the annual dinner, Dexter S. Kimball spoke on "The Personalities of Engineering Educators." He stressed personality as of more importance than the subjects taught. A great teacher is one who has a

scholarship, power of expression, and particularly the power to illustrate, power to inspire, fairness to student, humor, appearance and character. One of the finest things that can come to any man is to be taken into one of the great university communities. It ought to be difficult for him to get in and just as difficult to get out.

The Lamme Medal was awarded to Dexter S. Kimball. This is given each year to the chosen technical teacher for accomplishment in technical teaching or actual advancement of the art of technical training.

President-elect W. E. Wickenden, in expressing appreciation of the honor conferred on him, mentioned the esteem in which the organization is held and the widening circle of recognition of its active service, not only to the field of engineering education, but to the entire field of higher education. Engineering education no longer needs defense, and it should be commended to our associates.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### BOTANY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

ACCORDING to the London *Times*, the increasing numbers of students of botany has made necessary the extension of the buildings of the department of botany of the University of Oxford, which flank Inigo Jones's gateway to the Botanic Gardens opposite Magdalen. The alterations, undertaken with a special university grant of £2,000, were completed by the beginning of the term.

Botanical studies at Oxford are taking on a greater importance with the growth of exploration and research in Africa and in other regions. There are now twenty candidates in the final school of botany. In addition to these the department receives a much greater number of elementary students, for whom the study of botany forms only a part of their work. Their number has grown since the recent establishment of the Honor School of Geography, whose students are required to take an elementary course in botany.

On the other hand, the supply of students from the department of rural economy has ceased, for since the reduction of the government grant in the interests of economy, C. S. Orwin and his lieutenants in Parks Road have had to suspend for a time the teaching—though not the research—side of the department's work. Despite the stoppage of the supply from this source, the botany department last term had the record total of 130 students on its books, including post-graduate research workers. Of the latter, one is a professor of botany recently expelled from Germany because of his Jewish blood.

The main feature of the extension is the addition of an upper story to the west wing of the building.

This is for the use of students of mycology, the study of fungi and plant diseases and includes a sterilizing room, a room for demonstrations and a small chamber for inoculation. Above these rooms a flat roof has been constructed for students doing physiological experiments which require an absence of shade.

The new work has been carried out entirely on the existing building and does not encroach at any point on the 300-year-old Physic Garden, the oldest of its kind in England, which, with its symmetrical paths and flower-beds, statues and fountains, remains Oxford's only example of the ideal garden of Stuart times.

### SCHOOL FOREST FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

TWENTY-SIX hundred acres of forest land in El Dorado County have been given to the University of California as a school forest for the division of forestry in the College of Agriculture by the Michigan-California Lumber Company. The property will be operated for the benefit of the lumber industry.

The president of the Michigan-California Lumber Company, John W. Blodgett, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, in presenting the gift to the university, said: "We desire to offer to the University of California the title to about 2,600 acres of our land to be managed under forestry principles by the division of forestry of the university."

The University of California offers complete training in professional forestry. At the present time there are approximately 125 undergraduate students