Speaking for the American Institute of Physics, I am sure that this new move will be generally approved and its broader educational results watched with interest. Meanwhile we solicit the wholehearted support of all physics teachers to make this venture as successful and valuable as possible.

The personnel of the committee is as follows: C. J. Lapp, *chairman,* University of Iowa; H. W. Farwell, Columbia University; Frederic Palmer, Jr., Haverford College; John T. Tate, University of Minnesota, and A. G. Worthing, University of Pittsburgh. Departments of physics wishing to participate in the survey can obtain complete details of the plan from any member of the committee, or from Dr. F. S. Beers, University of Minnesota, the secretary of the Committee on Educational Testing of the American Council on Education.

THE HAYDEN PLANETARIUM OF THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

A GIFT of $150,000 by Charles Hayden, of Hayden, Stone and Company, has been made to the planetarium to be constructed by the American Museum of Natural History's Planetarium Authority.

F. Trubee Davison, president of the museum, made public a resolution, adopted by the executive committee of the Planetarium Authority, that "in recognition of the public-spirited and generous offer of Mr. Hayden, the planetarium building shall henceforth bear the official title and be referred to as the Hayden Planetarium."

Mr. Hayden's gift is for the purchase of the planetary projection instruments and a Copernican planetarium, the latter being a reproduction of our solar system in scale models. The cost of the construction of the building to house the artificial firmament of stars, planets and constellations will be defrayed by a $650,000 bond issue to be purchased by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. It is expected that the planetarium will open in the spring of 1935.

Although detailed construction plans have not yet been completed, the general scheme calls for a two-story-and-basement structure of brick and steel. The façade will be supported by six Grecian columns. On the outer surface of the dome, which will rise above the building, will be traced various stellar constellations, done in metal on a background of midnight blue. The dome will be made visible at night by indirect flood-lighting.

It will have a diameter of 75 feet, while the height of the chamber in the center will be 37½ feet. The horizon at the base of the dome will represent the skyline of New York in silhouette. There will be seats for 750 people.

While it is hoped that the planetarium will eventually be free to the public, an admission charge will be made until the money borrowed from the Federal Government has been paid. It is stipulated, however, that public school children attending in classes are to be admitted free at special periods.

The installation of the scientific equipment will be supervised by Dr. Clyde Fisher, curator of astronomy and education in the museum, who will also be in charge of the planetarium. Plans for the building are being completed by Trowbridge and Livingston, the museum architects.

The Hayden Planetarium will be the third of its kind in the United States and the twentieth in the world. Chicago had the first in this country and Philadelphia the second. Germany has twelve, Italy two, and Austria, Russia and Sweden one each.

EMERGENCY CONSERVATION WORK

OFFICIALS of the Emergency Conservation Work organization recently completed arrangements for adding between 30,000 and 40,000 new men to the Civilian Conservation Corps during the first ten days of the New Year as replacements for members of the corps who have been discharged to accept other employment or for other reasons.

The selection of new men has been virtually completed by state welfare agencies designated by the Labor Department, the regional managers of the Veterans' Administration and the technical representatives at the camps of the National Park Service and the Forest Service. The War Department began enrolling the men at the forest camps on January 2 on a schedule which called for completing the enrolment on January 10.

The program, as approved by Robert Fechner, director of emergency conservation work, calls for the enrolment of sufficient men to bring the strength of each of the 1,466 C. C. C. units up to a strength of 200 men each. When the replacement program is completed there will be approximately 240,000 young men, 35,000 experienced woodsmen and 28,125 war veterans in the corps, an aggregate strength of slightly above 300,000. This enrolment will be exclusive of the 12,000 Indians now enrolled in the Indian conservation camps.

Since initiation of the Emergency Conservation Work program on April 5, approximately 450,000 men have been enrolled and given jobs in the corps. Of this number, 296,000 are still at work in the forest camps. The balance has been discharged at various times to accept outside employment or for other reasons. Most of the men who left the corps were discharged at the end of the first six-months' period when President Roosevelt authorized continuance of the

camps until April 1. At that time all the men were urged to find outside employment if possible, so that their places in the camps could be taken by needy unemployed young men. Members of the corps are given honorable discharges on request if they find outside employment.

One hundred and twenty-five thousand new men were added during October and November to take the places of members of the summer C. C. C. camps who were discharged at or prior to the end of the first six-months' period.

FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR SCIENTIFIC WORK

IT is reported by Science Service that the new federal budget for the year 1934–35 just submitted to the Congress by President Roosevelt does not propose any substantial reduction in funds for scientific bureaus below the funds that were available for use during the present fiscal year.

Of the funds appropriated last year for use during the fiscal year 1933–34, approximately $34,768,000 was for the support of scientific research. But this sum was greatly cut by the Budget Bureau after the beginning of the Roosevelt administration. Figures appearing in the new budget volume indicate that only about $28,893,000 was actually allowed the bureaus for scientific work. A somewhat smaller amount for scientific research is allowed in the new 1934–35 budget for the fiscal year starting next July 1. Probably not more than $27,735,000 will be available for this purpose during the coming year. Most of the bureaus affected, however, have just as much as they did during the present year, or a little more.

The Bureau of Standards is allowed $1,437,702 instead of $1,336,000. The Bureau of Mines gets $762,926 instead of $694,985. The Naval Observatory gets $169,994 instead of $160,025. And other scientific bureaus or offices are given sums similarly close to the figures apportioned to them this year.

The main exception is the Department of Agriculture. Although this department is allowed under the budget greatly increased funds, these are mainly for administrative purposes and particularly for the carrying out of the recovery program. It is too early yet to know just what proportion of the total will be apportioned for research, but it is believed that not more than $15,700,000 will be devoted to this constructive work as against $18,000,000 available this year.

If the congress approves the budget as submitted, it will mean that scientific funds will be cut about 4 per cent. below the funds available for the present fiscal year, and 34.5 per cent. below the $42,375,000 spent on research during the fiscal year 1931–32.

AWARD OF THE PERKIN MEDAL TO DR. COLIN G. FINK

THE Perkin Medal of the Society of Chemical Industry was presented on the evening of January 5 to Dr. Colin G. Fink, professor of electrochemistry at Columbia University. The meeting was held jointly with the American Chemical Society, the Electrochemical Society and the Société de Chimie Industrielle.

The award was made several months ago by a committee representing five national chemical societies. This medal, a high honor in the chemical profession, is awarded each year for valuable work in applied chemistry and goes to Dr. Fink this year for his inventions in the fields of metallurgy and electrochemistry.

Dr. Fink's work was described by Professor Harold Hibbert, of McGill University. Presentation of the medal was made by Professor Marston T. Bogert, of Columbia University, who is a past president of the Society of Chemical Industry. Dr. Fink presented the customary medal address, his paper being entitled "Chemistry and Art," in which he discussed the seldom appreciated relationship between these two fields.

Dr. Fink's important inventions are in the fields of lead-in wires for electric bulbs, ductile tungsten, tungsten plating, insoluble anodes for copper refining, restoration of ancient bronzes, etc. He has been connected with the Metropolitan Museum of Art during the last eleven years. His work has been confined largely to the metals, but he has also worked with old marbles, paintings, porcelain and ceramic ware, ivories, lacquer work, etc. An interesting development is that all museum cases to-day at the Metropolitan Museum have a chemically controlled atmosphere.

Colin G. Fink was born in New Jersey in 1881. He graduated from Columbia College in 1903 and took the degree of doctor of philosophy at the University of Leipzig in 1907. He then joined the research staff of the General Electric Company at Schenectady, where he remained until 1917. In that year he became head of the new research laboratories of the Chile Exploration Company, New York. In 1922 Dr. Fink was called to Columbia University, where from that time he has been in charge of the division of electrochemistry.

THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS

THE thirtieth annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers was held at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, on December 26, 27 and 28. In the three-day session fifty-seven papers, including the presidential address, were presented before the association.

Out of the total number of fifty-seven papers thirteen can be classed as belonging to the field of