

THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

THE report of the secretary and business manager of the American Chemical Society, Dr. Charles L. Parsons, giving an account of the activities of the society during the year 1933, has been published. Dr. Parsons writes in part:

In 1933 the American Chemical Society passed through a crisis and has apparently passed through it successfully. Owing to the reduction in salaries; to unemployment, and to the vagaries of foreign exchange, resignations increased from 753 in 1931 to 1,207 in 1932 and to 1,335 in 1933. Members dropped for delinquency increased from 521 in 1931 to 698 in 1932 and to 811 in 1933. Also new members elected decreased from 2,143 in 1931 to 1,456 in 1932 and to 1,264 in 1933. In addition, and most important of all, the subsidy of approximately \$75,000 a year from the industry and the Chemical Foundation which the society had received, and which had been passed on to the membership in publications to the extent of approximately \$5 *per capita*, was discontinued and the society was left without this important means of support. It was also very evident from hundreds of letters in connection with resignations that an increasing number of members objected strenuously to receiving all three journals when many of them desired only one or two. They felt they should not be called upon to the same extent in the matter of dues as those who received all three. The matter became so serious that a committee was appointed at the Washington meeting, which, through several months of careful study and argument by correspondence, finally met in New York with every member present for a conference lasting two days. Their report was presented at the Chicago meeting, was adopted unanimously by the directors and by an overwhelming majority by the council. Under this report two important departures were made in society procedure: first, the society was put on a strictly professional basis with definite professional requirements for all members entering the society after the adoption of the report; second, a new procedure was adopted by which the average cost to the member remained about the same as at present, but under which the deficit of 1933 will probably be eliminated by discontinuing the policy of requiring all members to pay for all three journals. The plan made it possible for those who wish to retain their membership in the society at a minimum cost to secure this privilege for only \$9, including the *News Edition* which for the sake of society continuity, information and corroboration, it is felt necessary to send to every member. Under this procedure members may subscribe for one, two or three journals as they see fit and at prices less than one fourth of that for which any comparable journals can be obtained from any part of the world. All of this will be found in detail in the *News Edition* for September 20, 1933, and in the *October Proceedings* printed in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*. The secretary is happy to report that the plan has been received favorably by a vast majority of the society, that subscriptions to each of the journals, both from members and from non-members, are far be-

yond the committee's calculations, and that the trend in membership loss has been stopped, for already on January 20, 807 new members have been received as compared with 1,264 for the full year of 1933, or approximately 300 more than had been received at the same period a year ago. In addition thereto, resignations between November 1 and January 20, which were 651 a year ago, have been reduced to 331, or almost exactly one half, in 1934. It is a gratification to be able to state that in twenty-six years of experience I have never known the membership as a whole more contented with any new procedure of the society than they are with the change that has been made. There are of course individuals who still do not approve, but that is always the case in any action which the council and the directors may take. It is unavoidable in a membership organization.

Through very strict economy, especially the reduction in the weight of the paper used in our journals, a careful study of its quality, reduction in printing costs, and every saving which the directors could make, the deficit which the directors budgeted for 1933 as \$73,000 was reduced to approximately \$45,000, which amount was taken from the society's reserves. The society's actual expenditures in 1933 were \$444,362.32. They were \$493,387.06 in 1932.

THE EINSTEIN INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS IN JERUSALEM

It was planned to dedicate on March 6 the Einstein Institute of Physics at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

According to the account in *The New York Times* those taking part in the ceremonies included Sir Arthur Grenfell Wauchope, High Commissioner of Palestine; Dr. Israel Wechsler, neurologist of Columbia University and member of the governing board of the Hebrew University; Dr. Chaim Weizmann, its president and former president of the World Zionist Organization, and Dr. Nelson Glueck, of the Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, who now is in Palestine engaged in archeological work.

The building was begun in October, 1928, and cost about £15,000. It is "U" shaped. The central portion has two stories and a basement. The side wings are one story and are designed to permit the erection of additions.

The first laboratory in the new building will be devoted to spectrography. The instruments will be purchased through funds made available by the Elizabeth Thompson Science Fund of Boston, and a telescope has been donated by Dr. Leon Schoenfeld, of Zagreb, Yugoslavia.

A materials-testing laboratory, said to be the first of its kind in the Near East, also will be established in the new building. Its purpose will be to raise the standard of building construction in Palestine and neighboring countries.

During the dedication ceremony a plaque, bearing