and certain minor aberrations. The photographs show the helium atom as a diffusely continuous region filled with electricity. In neon, the inner group of K electrons is clearly distinguishable from the L electron group. The resolving power is insufficient to distinguish the K and L groups of electrons in argon, but does separate these from the M electrons. The appearance of these atoms is in good accord with modern quantum theory of atomic structure. These experiments afford probably the most direct information now available regarding the way in which electrons are distributed in atoms.

(To be concluded)

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTIFIC WORKERS[1]

THE annual report of the Executive Committee of the Association of Scientific Workers presented to the council on February 24 refers to the formation of a National Parliamentary Science Committee as an outcome of negotiations with the British Science Guild as the outstanding special work of the year. The support of twelve leading institutions has been obtained, and the committee includes Sir James Henderson, Professor Miles Walker, Professor Blackman, with Commander Bernacchi as chairman, and Mr. A. Howard and Mr. H. J. W. Stone as joint honorary secretaries. In consequence, the Parliamentary Committee of the British Science Guild and of the Association have been disbanded. The compilation of a "Handbook of Extra-University Research in Pure and Applied Science," giving data concerning commercial, endowed and private research laboratories, has been completed and negotiations for publication are in progress. It is believed that the handbook will serve as an advertisement of British research activities and of the interest taken by British industrialists in maintaining the highest efficiency in factories. The book may become a standard work of reference alongside the "Universities Yearbook" and the "Year-Book of Scientific and Learned Societies."

The association has been active in combating the evil of bogus degrees and has been in negotiation with the universities to secure their support of successive bills introduced in the House of Lords by Lord Jessel to deal with this evil. The association collected a considerable amount of information regarding the granting of degrees by five different British "degree-mongers" but has so far been unable to induce the universities to withdraw their opposition at the third reading of the bills. The finance of the research associations has received attention and is being considered by a joint Committee of the Association and the British Science Guild. The production of "Science in Parliament" has continued and a memorandum has also been prepared on the relation of the unification of national transport, the construction of ship-canals across Britain, the reconstruction of derelict canals and land-drainage. The report concludes by directing attention to the resolution passed that members should seek to assist towards a better adjustment between scientific advances and social progress.

[1] From *Nature*.

THE U. S. BUREAU OF STANDARDS

AT the recent meeting of the American Chemical Society, a resolution was passed urging increased financial support by the Federal Government for the U. S. Bureau of Standards. The resolution reads:

The establishment and maintenance of certain fundamental standards are vital to the advancement of the science of chemistry.

These standards have been established and maintained by the Bureau of Standards under the authority of Congress for many years, and new standards are developed by the bureau as need is found for them.

The bureau is performing its proper functions in an expanding national and international program. This work conforms to the original purpose for which the bureau was established, and has been done so well as to gain it national and international favor and reputation.

The American Chemical Society, an organization of 17,000 members practising their profession in the scientific, academic and industrial fields, believes this work to be of great scientific value, and necessary to practical advances in both pure and applied chemistry.

As a consequence of the retrenchment policy of the Federal Government, the continuance of these activities of the Bureau of Standards has been put in jeopardy.

The attention of proper committees and members of Congress is called to this critical situation with the request that, in making appropriations, provision be made for the necessary and adequate standardization and research activities of the Bureau of Standards, so that it may continue its valuable service to chemical science and industry.

A PALEONTOLOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTION AT ITHACA, N. Y.

DURING the past few decades considerable Neozoic material has been collected and brought to Ithaca, N. Y., for study by paleontological students. Bulletins of American paleontology have offered a ready means for publishing descriptions and illustrations of this new material. It relates largely to the Southern States, West Indies and South America with con-

siderable European collections. Facilities for the conserving of types have been hitherto lacking here; hence a fireproof building has been privately constructed and deeded to this institution (incorporated under the Board of Regents of the State of New York on October 12, 1933). The bulletins become the official organ for the institution, and all editions of the same, together with rare paleontological publications and type specimens, are housed in the building now erected. The board of trustees (seven in number) consists largely of local paleontological workers. Suitable equipments are now assembling.

There are three leading ideas underlying the establishment of this institution:

(1) To prevent the labor and valuable acquisitions of each generation from being wasted or lost, as is too frequently the case in educational institutions without proper museum facilities.

(2) To furnish temporary working facilities for paleontological students home from abroad or not connected with regular university or museum organizations.

(3) To serve as a regional center (since our country is large and not unicentric as is France) where local young students may see actual investigation going on and hence, perhaps, become interested in this branch of science.

It may perhaps be added that whenever there is need of consulting outside sources, few places are better surrounded by universities of rank—east, south, west and north—all within a day's auto journey, than Ithaca. G. D. HARRIS

THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

AT the annual meeting of the American Philosophical Society held in Philadelphia on April 19, 20 and 21, the following members were elected:

Dr. Detlev W. Bronk, professor of biophysics at the University of Pennsylvania and director of the Eldridge R. Johnson Foundation for Research in Medical Physics.

Dr. Willa Cather, New York, N. Y., novelist.

Gustavus Wynne Cook, Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, president of the South Chester Tube Company.

Dr. Wilbur L. Cross, New Haven, governor of Connecticut.

Dr. Cass Gilbert, New York, N. Y., architect.

Dr. Edward S. Harkness, New York, N. Y., railroad executive.

Horace Howard Furness Jayne, director of the University of Pennsylvania Museum.

Dr. Alfred Vincent Kidder, Andover, Massachusetts, chairman of the Division of Historical Sciences of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

Dr. John Livingston Lowes, professor of English, Harvard University.

Dr. Frederick G. Novy, professor of bacteriology and director of the Hygienic Laboratory of the University of Michigan.

Dr. Conyers Read, professor of English history, University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Jesse S. Reeves, William W. Cook professor of American institutions and chairman of the department of political science, University of Michigan.

Owen J. Roberts, Washington, D. C., associate justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Dr. George Sarton, lecturer on the History of Science, Harvard University, and editor of *Isis*.

Dr. Deems Taylor, New York, N. Y., musician.

Roland S. Morris, of Philadelphia, was reelected president, and Dr. Robert A. Millikan, of the California Institute of Technology, was elected a vice-president. Vice-presidents reelected were Dr. Edwin G. Conklin, of Princeton University, and Alba B. Johnson, of Philadelphia. Dr. Albert P. Brubaker is curator and Dr. Arthur W. Goodspeed and Dr. John A. Miller are the secretaries. The Rev. Dr. James A. Montgomery, graduate professor of Hebrew and Aramaic at the University of Pennsylvania, succeeded as councilor Dr. Cyrus Adler, president of Dropsie College. Other councilors, reelected, are Dr. Charles G. Abbot, of the Smithsonian Institution; John Cadwalader, of Philadelphia, and Dr. Hugh S. Taylor, of Princeton University.

RECENT DEATHS

DR. ISAAC JOACHIM SCHWATT, emeritus professor of mathematics at the University of Pennsylvania, died on April 18, in his sixty-seventh year.

CLEVELAND ABBE, JR., editor of the publications of the department of chemistry at Cornell University, died on April 19 at the age of sixty-two years.

CHARLES WRIGHT DODGE, for forty years and until his retirement as professor emeritus in 1931 professor of biology at the University of Rochester, died on April 17 in his seventy-second year.

DR. HENRY DONALD CAMPBELL, for forty-seven years on the faculty of Washington and Lee University, and dean for twenty-six years, died on April 10 in his seventy-second year.

F. PAUL ANDERSON, heating and ventilating engineer, since 1917 dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Kentucky, died on April 8, at the age of sixty-seven years.

DR. OSKAR VON MILLER, founder of the Deutsches Museum at Munich, died on April 9 at the age of seventy-eight years.