Paris, and Marchese Marconi, president of the National Research Council of Italy, were elected vice-presidents. Dr. Pelseneer and Dr. Went remain members of the executive committee and Sir Henry Lyons the general secretary.

At this meeting for the first time, the International Unions of Astronomy, Geodesy and Geophysics, Chemistry, Scientific Radio, Physics, Geography and the Biological Sciences attended as members of the council, and communicated accounts of their activities in their respective scientific fields of work during the past three years.

For the first time also, addresses were given on scientific matters of general interest, and these included, on this occasion, one by Dr. D. la Cour on the International Polar Year, 1932–33, its aims, methods and some preliminary results; another by General G. Perrier, on recent international determinations of longitude; while Dr. E. P. Hubble spoke on the exploration of space, and Professor H. R. Kruyt on electricity and hydration with colloids.

The International Committee on the Relationship between Solar and Terrestrial Phenomena was reappointed, and another on instruments and methods met to arrange its future procedure.

The following motion, put forward by the Royal Academy of Sciences, Amsterdam, was unanimously adopted by the General Assembly:

The International Council of Scientific Unions, being aware of the fact that the present economic and political difficulties have brought humanity face to face with a number of the most complicated and dangerous problems and threaten to erect a system of barriers between various nations, expresses its deep faith that ultimately a way will be found leading towards a more harmonious economic structure, and wishes to stress the importance of maintaining by all means international cooperation in the domain of science under whatever circumstances may present themselves.

As laid down in its statutes, the council recognizes the relations between pure and applied science. There is no doubt that both governments and industrial groups will in an ever increasing degree call upon scientists for elucidation of the manifold complexities and problems which human life and human relationship are presenting —problems, the most important of which perhaps are those of finding food, space in which to live and employment for the various peoples spread over the earth. If at the present moment an international organization devoted to the solutions of these problems is still beyond our vision, and organization constructed according to national systems must provisionally be strengthened for fear of losing hold of economic possibilities, it can be foreseen that the scientists of every country will be drawn more and more into these spheres of national organization. The council expresses its confidence that scientists, while giving their aid in meeting the needs of their own nations, will never lose sight of the international character of science as a whole, and will ever continue to keep in working order and to develop the connections necessary for international cooperation, even if severe shocks unhappily might come to threaten economic and political relations.

In professing its faith in the possibility and the necessity of peace between the world's peoples, the council points out that the "brotherhood of scientists" can be an important factor towards the establishment of a desire for mutual understanding and helpfulness in order to overcome the dangers involved in a too exclusive nationalism.

The council, therefore, in emphasizing the significance of science, both pure and applied, as a common treasure for all humanity, which can only be realized through a free-spirited cooperation of the most diverse elements, is of opinion that scientists of the whole world have a task of working for this understanding, and urges all allied organizations to give constant attention to this task.

The General Assembly accepted unanimously an invitation from the Royal Society to meet in London in 1937.

THE PROTECTION OF SCIENTIFIC PROPERTY

AT the annual meeting of the American Bar Association, which will be held at Milwaukee, from August 27 to 29, the report of the section of patent, trademark and copyright law will be presented. The question of the protection of scientific property had been referred to a subcommittee consisting of Messrs. Robertson, Haynes and Willits, and the following report of the subcommittee was adopted and is submitted as the report of the Committee on Patent Law Revision:

At the meeting of the Section of Patent, Trade-Mark and Copyright Law held at Grand Rapids in August, 1933, Mr. Richard Spencer (now First Assistant Commissioner of Patents) for the Committee on Scientific Property, reported as follows: "The committee commenced the investigation of this topic several years back and has from time to time reported its findings (*American Bar Association Journal*, January, 1932). At present it is cooperating with various scientific groups to learn whether the scientists themselves want protection. Rather extensive reports so far gathered indicate they do not. The subject, however, is not yet exhausted and it is accordingly recommended the subject be carried on the agenda another year."

In January, 1934, the Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science published an extensive bulletin entitled "Protection by Patents of Scientific Discoveries." This report (40 printed pages) was made by the American Association's committee consisting of Messrs. Joseph Rossman, F. G. Cottrell, A. W. Hull

and A. F. Woods, and probably contains the results of the investigation referred to by Mr. Spencer in his aforesaid report of August, 1933. In any event, the report of the American Association's committee of scientists contains a statement as follows: "A careful analysis of the whole problem, however, has led the committee to the opinion that no effort should at present be made to develop a plan for protecting scientific property. There appears to be no need for such legal protection from the viewpoint of incentive to the scientist or public policy. The committee recognizes that the present economic crisis has tremendously diminished the normally available funds for carrying on research so that other sources of potential funds are to be carefully considered at this time. It believes, however, that the legal and practical difficulties involved in enforcing any scientific property would eventually arouse an unfavorable public opinion against scientists, owing to the difficulty of enforcing scientific property and the inherent nature of its broad monopoly. . . . The committee's views being negative as to the first question asked by the American Bar Association it can not undertake to answer the second question in regard to indicating a feasible and practical way of affording this protection."

Since the scientists themselves have made a negative report, your committee recommends that no further study be given to this question at present and that the subject be dropped from the committee's agenda.

THE RECORD-BREAKING HEAT OF JULY

JULY brought record-breaking heat to the United States, notably to the Middle West and Southwest. Never before since the weather records began more than 60 years ago has the heat in any one month been so intense over so wide an area in this country, nor have such abnormally high temperatures persisted day after day without a break, according to J. B. Kincer, of the Weather Bureau. The nearest approach was in July, 1901.

The highest temperatures recorded for July this year in the Middle West and Southwest closely paralleled, and in many places topped the July, 1901, record in the same area. This year the highest ranged from 104 degrees, or 13 degrees above normal, at Oklahoma City, Okla., to 108 degrees, or 22 degrees above normal, at Des Moines, Iowa. At Columbia, Mo., the maximum of 112 degrees was 24 degrees above normal and at North Platte, Neb., the maximum of 108 degrees was 21 degrees above normal. In July, 1901, they ran from 102 degrees, or 11 degrees above normal, at Oklahoma City, to 109 degrees, or 23 degrees above normal, at Des Moines.

The number of successive days when the thermometer registered 100 degrees or over puts July, 1934, in a class by itself in the records of the Weather Bureau. Des Moines reported 12 days with 100 degree and higher temperatures; 9 of these were successive. In 1901, there were the same number of high-temperature days at Des Moines, but only 6 were in succession. Columbia, Mo., had 21 such days, with 16 in succession, in July, 1934, and 18 with 7 in succession, in July, 1901. North Platte, Neb., had 16, with 13 in succession in 1934, against 7, with 2 in succession, in 1901. Concordia, Kans., had 23, with 18 in succession, in July, 1934, and 19, with 10 in succession, in July, 1901. Oklahoma City, Okla., had 20, with 10 in succession, in July, 1934, and 4, with 2 in succession, in 1901. Fort Smith, Ark., had 24, with 17 in succession, in 1934, and 13, with 5 in succession, in 1901.

The average maximum temperatures for the two successive hottest weeks in both years' heat waves were uniformly higher in 1934 than in 1901. At Des Moines these average maxima for the two weeks were 102 degrees in 1934 and 101 degrees in 1901; at Columbia, 106 degrees in 1934 and 102 degrees in 1901; at North Platte, 103 degrees in 1934 and 98 degrees in 1901; at Concordia, 106 degrees in 1934 and 101 degrees in 1901; at Oklahoma City, 102 degrees both years; at Fort Smith, 104 degrees in 1934 and 101 degrees in 1901.

The 1901 heat wave broke permanently about July 26. The 1934 heat wave broke, temporarily at least, about the same time in the month, except in the more Southwestern sections, especially in the Southern Plains, where it continued.

The exceptionally high temperatures of July were preceded this year by very high temperatures in June in the Middle West and Southwest, which was not the case in 1901. For example, at Des Moines, Iowa, the July, 1901, mean temperature of 8.4 degrees above normal followed a mean June temperature only 2.6 degrees above normal. This year, however, at the same point the mean June temperature was 8.4 degrees above normal and the July mean, about 7 degrees above normal. At Columbia, Mo., another high temperature center in both years—the mean June temperature of 1.5 degrees above normal rose to 9.6 degrees above normal in July in 1901. This year the June temperature at Columbia was 7.6 degrees above normal and the July temperature, nearly 12 degrees above normal.

THE MINERAL RESEARCH PROGRAM OF THE MICHIGAN COLLEGE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY

THE mineral research program authorized by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and approved by the state planning board for the Michigan College of Mining and Technology, which is now under way, embraces the investigation and development of mineral resources and it is hoped to make it