

the development of cultural relationships between the citizens of the United States and their Latin American neighbors to the south, have held informal conferences in Washington and made preliminary plans for the congress, which is to be held in Washington before the close of this year. Bills have been presented in both houses of the Congress in support of this enterprise. On February 19 Secretary of State Cordell Hull sent the following letter to the President of the United States:

Sir: The undersigned, the Secretary of State, has the honor to recommend that the Congress be requested to enact legislation providing for an annual appropriation of \$10,000 for the payment of the share of this Government in the expenses of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History; to request the President to invite the Pan American Institute of Geography and History to hold its second general assembly in the United States in 1935, and to provide an appropriation of \$10,000 for the expenses of such a meeting.

There is attached hereto a statement containing the history of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History.

Membership of the United States in the Institute would be desirable as the Institute will provide an international agency for the collection, coordination and dissemination of geographical and historical information which will be of value to numerous organs of the Government of the United States, scientific organizations, educational institutions and interested scholars.

This is the first organization of a Pan American character to be established in Mexico. The Mexican Government has made generous provision for the Institute including the erection of an appropriate and handsome building for its use. The next meeting of the assembly of the Institute is scheduled to take place in Washington in 1935. It is believed that Mexico as well as the other members of the Pan American Union would view with great gratification the support of the Institute by the United States.

On February 20 President Franklin D. Roosevelt sent the following message to Congress:

I commend to the favorable consideration of the Congress the enclosed report from the Secretary of State, with an accompanying paper, to the end that legislation may be enacted providing for an annual appropriation of \$10,000 for the payment of the share of this Government in the expenses of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History and requesting the President to invite the Pan American Institute of Geography and History to hold its second general assembly in the United States in 1935, and providing an appropriation of \$10,000 for the expenses of such a meeting.

If and when the Congress has taken the necessary action, the invitations will be sent out by the President, or through officers of the State Department, to the various nations that are cooperating in this enterprise

and a group of official delegates will be selected to represent the United States at the coming meeting. Preliminary plans call for a series of programs of general interest, in which progress in research work in geography and history and plans for cooperation between the American people in the promotion of such research will be presented. We anticipate that a number of sectional meetings will be necessary, for the organization recognizes the fields of archeology, pre-Columbian history, the Colonial epoch, as well as topography, cartography, geodesy, geomorphology, human geography, historical geography, biologic and economic geography.

In addition to the formal meetings, at which papers may be presented, a number of excursions to places of special interest in or near Washington will be planned for the delegates. It is anticipated that there will be one or two social occasions associated with the congress.

WALLACE W. ATWOOD, *President,*
Pan American Institute of Geography
and History

THE LANCASTER BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

At a meeting of the executive committee of the American Association for the Advancement of Science held in New York on October 21, a committee was appointed with special reference to the organization of local branches of the association, and the first branch under its auspices authorized by the council at the Pittsburgh meeting of the association has been established at Lancaster, Pa.

A preliminary organization meeting, with seventy of those interested in the movement in attendance, was held at Franklin and Marshall College in December. Jaques Cattell, vice-president of the Science Press Printing Company, after stating briefly the object of the meeting, introduced Dr. Otis W. Caldwell, professor of education and director of the Institute of School Experimentation at Teachers College, Columbia University, chairman of the committee on organization and now general secretary of the association. Dr. Caldwell gave an account of the work for the advancement and diffusion of science of the association and described how its objects could be promoted by the establishment of local branches. As the result of the discussion following Dr. Caldwell's address, which was led by Dr. Paul L. Whitely, professor of psychology at Franklin and Marshall College, acting as temporary chairman, a committee on organization was appointed.

The first regular meeting was held on February 13, at Franklin and Marshall College, at which Dr. W. F. G. Swann, director of the Bartol Research Foun-

dation of the Franklin Institute, was guest lecturer. He spoke on "Cosmic Rays Simplified" before an audience of approximately four hundred and fifty people. Following the lecture he gave a cello recital of six numbers accompanied by Dr. Barrows Dunham, assistant professor of English at Franklin and Marshall College. Before the lecture a dinner was given in honor of Dr. Swann, at which fourteen members especially interested in the success of the branch were present.

The following officers were elected: *Chairman*, Jaques Cattell; *Vice-chairman*, Dr. Clarence C. Vogt; *Treasurer*, Professor H. M. Fry; *Secretary*, Dr. Frances A. Coventry. Dr. Noel P. Laird was made chairman of the publicity committee. This committee is composed of representatives from the Hamilton Watch Company, the Lancaster City Schools, the Lancaster County Schools, the Millersville State Teachers College, the Armstrong Cork Company, the Lancaster Medical Societies, the Lancaster College Club, the Harris Dental Society, the Muhlenberg Botanical Society and other organizations.

One hundred and two members had joined the branch at the time of the meeting. Since then the membership has increased to almost four hundred. Dues have been set at \$1 per year, and it is planned to hold meetings monthly from September to June.

The second meeting was scheduled for March 20 with William McAndrew, formerly superintendent of schools in Chicago, as the lecturer. The third meeting is planned for the second week in April, when the speakers will be M. and Mme. Jean Piccard.

F. A. COVENTRY,
Secretary

THE ENGINEERING INDEX

DR. FRANK B. JEWETT, president of Bell Telephone Laboratories and vice-president of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, has accepted the position of national chairman of a campaign to raise a working capital fund of \$161,000 for "Engineering Index, Inc." Announcement of Dr. Jewett's acceptance was made by Collins P. Bliss, president of the index and dean of the School of Engineering of New York University, who has headed a movement to save the fifty-year-old index and annotating service of the engineering profession since it was discontinued as an activity of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers a year ago. In accepting the chairmanship of the Engineering Index National Committee, Dr. Jewett said:

Only my deep concern for the preservation of this essential service could induce me to accept this responsibility.

The keeping of the records of science is one of the most important and valuable activities. To-day the index is the only agency which makes available to the engineer and research worker an exhaustive and continuing record of findings and developments in the technical field.

In view of the enormous, unwieldy mass of current engineering literature, the absence of such a service would have serious and far-reaching consequences. Certainly if duplication of effort and the resulting economic loss is to be minimized, it is essential for the research worker at all times to be in a position to profit by what others have done and are doing.

During the past year the continuance of *Engineering Index* as a non-profit corporation has been the concern of a small group of educators and engineers. The majority utilizing its service have taken such continuance for granted. It is my belief that if representative members of the profession and of industry are apprised of the actual situation, they will cooperate in providing funds needed to insure its permanence and make possible a program to widen its use.

I join with Dean Bliss and the others on the National Committee, in the belief that preservation of *Engineering Index* is one of the most important jobs confronting the profession to-day. Soundly established, with adequate facilities for the exhaustive and systematic annotating and reporting of the findings in both pure and applied science, it will be insurance of continued and orderly progress, and as such, a national asset. Its support by industry is a matter of enlightened self-interest.

The National Committee is not as yet completely enrolled. It, however, already includes the names of a large number of those prominent in engineering and in industry.

RECENT DEATHS

DR. JOHN JAMES RICKARD MACLEOD, professor of physiology in the University of Aberdeen, died on March 16, at the age of fifty-eight years. Dr. Macleod, who received the Nobel prize with Sir Frederick Banting for their discovery of insulin, was professor of physiology at Western Reserve University from 1903 to 1918 and for the next ten years at Toronto.

DR. JOHN RUHRÄH, professor of the diseases of children at the University of Maryland, died on March 10 at the age of fifty-eight years.

DR. DANIEL COLQUHOUN, emeritus professor of medicine in the University of Otago, New Zealand, died on February 17.

Nature records the death of Professor Emanuele Paternò, formerly professor of general chemistry at the University of Rome, and of Dr. Axel Wallén, director of the State Meteorological Hydrographic Institute of Sweden.