larly visited Russia. By the distinction of his work in England, which added materially to the already high reputation of Russian science, he was influential in promoting happy scientific relations between Russia and Britain and obtaining for his scientific compatriots a cordial welcome in English laboratories.

While nobody disputes that the Soviet has a legal claim upon Professor Kapitza's services, its sudden action in commandeering them without any previous warning has profoundly disturbed the university and the scientific world. Professor Kapitza was not even allowed to return to Britain to discuss with the university and the Royal Society [which contributed a large sum to his experiments] arrangements for carrying on the work of the laboratory of which Professor Kapitza is director. It requires no imagination to realize how painful Professor Kapitza's own position is.

Lord Rutherford then asserts that science is international and that the facilities granted to Professor Kapitza in England are a good example of that fact. He concludes:

> May we hope that the Soviet, which has given so many proofs of its interest in the development of science, will pursue a generous and long-sighted policy and see its way to meet the wishes of scientific men throughout the world by enabling Professor Kapitza to choose the environment in which he can most effectively utilize the special creative gifts with which he is endowed? It would be a tragedy if these gifts were rendered sterile by failure to grasp the psychological situation.

## IN HONOR OF DR. WILLIAM ALBERT NOYES

DR. WILLIAM ALBERT NOYES, emeritus director of the chemical laboratories of the University of Illinois, has been awarded the fifth Priestley Medal, established in honor of Joseph Priestley, the discoverer of oxygen, which is bestowed every three years "for distinguished service to chemistry" by the American Chemical Society.

The first Priestley award was conferred on the late Ira Remsen, professor of chemistry and president of the Johns Hopkins University; the second on the late Edgar F. Smith, professor of chemistry and provost of the University of Pennsylvania; the third on Francis P. Garvan, president of the Chemical Foundation, and the fourth on Dr. Charles L. Parsons, secretary of the American Chemical Society.

Dr. Noyes, who is now seventy-eight years old, began his active career in chemistry as professor at the University of Tennessee from 1883 to 1886. Following that he was a member of the faculty at Rose Polytechnic Institute until 1903.

He served as the first chief chemist of the National Bureau of Standards in Washington from 1903 to 1907, in which year be became director of the laboratories in the University of Illinois, retaining that post until his retirement in 1926. As director emeritus, he has continued his active work in scientific research in the widely varied fields of organic, inorganic and physical chemistry, particularly in the field of electronic theories.

Dr. Noyes was secretary of the American Chemical Society from 1902 to 1907, and president in 1920. He edited the *Journal* of the American Chemical Society from 1907 to 1917 and established *Chemical Abstracts*, first issued by the society in 1907, himself editing the publication for two years. He has been the editor of the Scientific Monograph Series of the society since its beginning in 1909.

Dr. Noyes is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, of the American Philosophical Society, of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and of many other scientific organizations. He received the degree of doctor of philosophy from the Johns Hopkins University and holds honorary degrees from Clark University, the University of Pittsburgh and Grinnell College.

The award will be presented at the ninetieth meeting of the society to be held in San Francisco next August. Members of the Committee on Awards in pure chemistry are: Professor Edward Bartow, of the Iowa State University, president-elect of the society; Professor Homer B. Adkins; Dr. John Johnston; Dr. Ralph E. Gibson; Dean Frank C. Whitmore; Dr. W. H. Carothers, and Edward Mack, Jr.

## LETTER OF WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

AT the opening of the first general session of the National Academy of Sciences on April 22, the president of the academy, Dr. W. W. Campbell, read the following letter, addressed to him from the White House, by President Roosevelt:

> As you and your eminent colleagues meet in the seventy-first annual assembly of the National Academy of Sciences, I bid you warm welcome to Washington, and express my cordial wish for the greater development and usefulness of the academy.
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> The country has every reason to be proud of the record of its scientific men and engineers. In astronomy, medicine, physics, chemistry, geology and other sciences, and in the progress of engineering in all its branches, the contributions of America have been and still are outstanding in a friendly world rivalry.
>
> It is a matter for thankfulness that among the many sources of world distrust and jealousies, science preserves an ideal of purity, truthfulness and mutual good will toward all nations. Not only do cooperative international scientific projects flourish, but the publications of scientists are received at face value in all lands, even though they be politically at variance.
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> The National Academy's charter provides that the