cane. Fortunately the building housing the laboratory, herbarium and lodgings was not destroyed.

Dr. Thomas Barbour, director of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, has recently been elected a member of the Massachusetts Historical Society and of the American Antiquarian Society at Worcester.

THE ORGANIC CHEMISTRY SYMPOSIUM OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

THE sixth National Organic Chemistry Symposium of the American Chemical Society will meet at Rochester, N. Y., on December 30 and 31 and on January 1. The program of papers and speakers is as follows:

Monday Morning

9:30—Address of Welcome, Samuel W. Clausen, *chairman,* The Rochester Section.

9:45—Response—"Ten Years of Organic Symposia," Roger Adams, president, American Chemical Society.

10:00—"Recent Advances in Our Knowledge of the Carotenoids," Marston T. Bogert.

11:00—"The Synthesis of Phenanthrene Derivatives Related to Natural Products," Louis F. Fieser.

Monday Afternoon

2:00—"The Hormones Challenging the Organic Chemist," Vincent du Vigneaud.

3:00—"Some Recent Advances in the Alkaloid Field," Lyndon F. Small.

4:00—"Acyclic Sugar Structures," M. L. Wolfrom.

Monday Evening

8:00—"Problems in Anemia," George H. Whipple, dean of the Rochester Medical School.

Tuesday Morning

9:00—"Syntheses and Chemical Properties of Orthoesters," Arthur J. Hill.

10:00—"Polysulfones from Sulfur Dioxide and Olefins," Carl S. Marvel.

11:00—"The Chemistry of the Ethylene Bond," Morris S. Kharasch.

Tuesday Afternoon

2:00—"Many-Membered Rings," Wallace H. Carothers.

3:00—"The Reactions of Hydrogen with Organic Nitrogen Compounds," Homer Adkins.

4:00—"Organic Derivatives of Boron," John R. Johnson.

Tuesday Evening

8:00—"The Heats of Hydrogenation of Unsaturated Compounds," James B. Conant and G. B. Kistiakowsky.

Wednesday Morning

9:00—"Relative Reactivities of Organo-Metallic Compounds," Henry Gilman.

10:00—"The Chemistry and Tautomerism of Some Indene Derivatives," C. Frederick Koelsch.

11:00—"New Evidence for the Low Temperature History of Petroleum," Benjamin T. Brooks.

The Rochester Section of the American Chemical Society is acting as host for the symposium. Members of the general committee are Erle M. Billings, V. J. Chambers and W. W. Hartman. Headquarters will be at the Hotel Seneca.

REPORT OF THE SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD

CREATION of a permanent science advisory board and the development of a national program to make the most effective use of the great scientific services of the nation, were recommended by the Science Advisory Board in a report submitted to President Roosevelt on December 2 by its chairman, Dr. Karl T. Compton.

The proposed permanent agency would be composed of a small group of leading scientific men and engineers who would serve without compensation under the sponsorship of the National Academy of Sciences. The present advisory board, created by President Roosevelt in 1933, has ended its work with the expiration of an extended appointment on December 1.

In outlining the place of science in government, the report says: "There is no need for the government to embark upon comprehensive programs in pure science, invention or industrial development. There are, however, numerous scientific services of such wide scope and universal utility that no agency except the government is competent to handle them adequately. There are other scientific services which are essentially supplementary to non-scientific governmental activities. There are also fields of scientific or technical development which hold evident promise of benefitting the public, but which are not proper or practical fields for private initiative. In these three categories and in this order of importance lie the proper scientific activities of the government."

In the first category are public health, weather forecasting, topographic mapping, development of scientific and technical standards, mineral surveys and statistics, safety codes, patents, soil science, improvement of crops and live stock, national scientific museums and engineering work relating to flood control, water works and aids to navigation. In the second category are scientific aids to national defense and development of standards for the purchase of supplies for government bureaus. The third includes such activities as those of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics.

The report directed attention to duplication of effort in existing scientific bureaus of the government

and asserted that freedom of scientific work from political and policy-making influence is of prime importance. It adds that for technical advice the Congress and the executive departments should have ready access to, and should use, the best talents available within and without the government services.

One of the principal recommendations in the report concerns grants-in-aid of research projects which hold definite promise of importance industrially, medically or otherwise in the public interest. The report states that at present there are many developments of this nature which a relatively small amount of financial support would release for the stimulation of industry and commerce, and the improvement of public health. An appropriation of $3,500,000 for scientific research by non-governmental institutions during the next two years is recommended and an annual appropriation of $100,000 for the support of the Science Advisory Board is also requested.

During the past year the board has studied a number of matters connected with the federal scientific bureaus. These reports, which are soon to be made public, cover the mapping services of the Federal Government; the relation of the patent system to the stimulation of new industries; the relationship of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils to the other bureaus in the Department of Agriculture; medical and public health problems in the Federal Government; the report of the joint committee appointed by the Science Advisory Board and Regional Coordinating Committees of Railway Executives to study the matter of research methods and possibilities in the railway field, and a study of means for lessening the hazard of collision of ships in fog.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. EDWARD W. BERRY, professor of paleontology and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the Johns Hopkins University, has been appointed to the revived office of provost of the university. Dr. Joseph S. Ames, the predecessor of President Isaiah Bowman, was provost from 1926 to 1929, but on his accession to the presidency no successor was appointed.

DR. MAX MASON, who joined the Rockefeller Foundation as director for natural sciences in 1928, becoming president in 1930, previously from 1925 to 1928 president of the University of Chicago, has announced his retirement. He plans to resume his mathematical work.

DR. FRANK SCHLESINGER, director of the Yale University Observatory and professor of astronomy at Yale University, has been made a member of the Legion of Honor by the French Government, with the rank of officer.

DR. MARY B. KIRKBRIDE, associate director of the Division of Laboratories and Research of the New York State Department of Health, has been presented a gold medal by the New York State Association of Public Health Laboratories "in recognition of her devoted service to that organization." Dr. Kirkbride was elected in 1919 as the first secretary-treasurer of the association and has acted in that capacity since that time.

THE medal of the American Society of Civil Engineers, awarded for an original paper on sanitary engineering, has been given to John H. Gregory, professor of civil and sanitary engineering at the Johns Hopkins University, for a paper on "Intercepting Sewers and Storm Stand-by Tanks at Columbus, Ohio." The medal has been awarded only three times since it was instituted in 1924.

THE Hubbard Gold Medal, award of the National Geographic Society for geographic achievements, will be presented on December 11 to Captain Albert W. Stevens and Captain Orvil A. Anderson, commander and pilot of the stratosphere balloon, *Explorer II*. General Pershing, a trustee of the society, will make the presentations in Constitution Hall.

AN award of 10,000 Belgian francs as first prize in the competition sponsored by the George Montefiore Foundation of the University of Liége, Belgium, for "the greatest contribution to the art and science of electrical engineering during the last three years," has been made to Gabriel Kron, of the General Electric Company, for his memoir on "Non-Riemannian Dynamics of Rotating Electrical Machinery." The first prize in the competition, which is international in scope, has not been awarded to an American since 1923 when it was given to Dr. J. B. Whitehead, dean of the engineering faculty, the Johns Hopkins University.

PROFESSOR MARIE-VICTORIN, head of the department of botany of the University of Montreal, has been awarded the Coincy Prize by the Paris Academy of Sciences.

DR. HANS DRIESCH, professor of philosophy at the University of Leipzig, has been elected an honorary member of the British Philosophical Society.

DR. CHARLES E. COTTON, secretary and executive officer of the Minnesota Livestock Sanitary Board, in recognition of his work in the eradication of bovine tuberculosis was the guest of honor in November at