

with tiny checkerboard-like farms and fields. Cutting into the level, smooth farm lands are regions of erosion, with innumerable small stream courses, arroyos and creek beds, forming intricate patterns of delicate tracery like frost on a window pane. Roads appear as thin, knife-edge lines. Towns are practically invisible. The still pictures of the earth were made with a Fairchild aerial camera mounted in the bottom of the gondola.

THE ACADEMY CONFERENCE

THE Academy Conference will hold its annual session at 4 P. M. on Monday, December 30, in the Hotel Jefferson, St. Louis. The complimentary dinner given by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, about which Dr. Henry B. Ward, permanent secretary, is writing to each academy, will be held at 6:15 P. M., and will terminate in time for the delegates to attend the opening general session.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the association, held in Washington on October 27, it was voted that the Academy Conference membership include the representatives of affiliated academies designated by those bodies as members of the Council of the Association.

The following topics will be presented for discussion at the Academy Conference:

"A Brief History of the Accomplishments of the Academy Conference," H. E. Enders.

"Work Planned by the Academies," S. W. Bilsing.

"Ways in Which the *Science News Letter* May Help Junior Academy Members," Watson Davis.

Report of the Committee on Coordination of Science Clubs, and upon Source Materials for Junior Academies.

The General Secretary's Report upon State Academy Research Grants.

Other topics if time available.

The secretary of the Academy Conference is assembling news notes from state academies and these will be mimeographed for distribution at the meeting.

S. W. BILSING,

Secretary, Academy Conference

OTIS W. CALDWELL,

General Secretary, American Association for the Advancement of Science

THE ST. LOUIS PROGRAM

A CHANGE in the announcement of the Phi Beta Kappa lecture scheduled for a public session of the winter meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science has been made necessary by the serious illness of Professor Frederick J. E. Woodbridge and the recent death of Mrs. Woodbridge. It is expected that the address, "The Claims of Science," which Dr. Woodbridge had prepared for the occasion,

will be published in *The American Scholar*. Dr. Woodbridge felt that the meeting was too important to have the lecture read by some one other than the author.

Fortunately Dr. William Allan Neilson, president of Smith College, has been secured to make this first annual Phi Beta Kappa lecture. President Neilson was graduated by the University of Edinburgh and Harvard University, where he taught English for many years. He has been chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Carnegie Foundation, a Phi Beta Kappa Senator, co-editor with Charles W. Eliot of the "Harvard Classics," editor-in-chief of Webster's "New International Dictionary" and author of many notable works in the field of English literature. He has been for four years a member of the editorial board of *The American Scholar*. President Neilson has chosen for this meeting the subject, "The American Scholar To-day." He proposes to discuss Ralph Waldo Emerson's ideal to see how far it fits our time and takes in science. The lecture will be preceded by musical numbers by Barbara Hecker Schmitt. The chairman will be Dr. Robert A. Millikan.

The United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa is an affiliated member of the American Association and was invited by the association to sponsor this annual lecture representing the association's recognition as scientists of the humanistic ideal. Delegates who attend the five days of technical discussions will welcome this variation in the program. The meeting will be open to the public and all Phi Beta Kappa members in the community will be especially invited. The lecture will be held in the Opera House of the Municipal Auditorium in St. Louis at 8:15 on Wednesday evening, January 1.

The association will welcome as a guest at its meeting in St. Louis one of the most distinguished of South American scientific men, Dr. B. A. Houssay. He came to this country recently as a visiting lecturer at Harvard University and will appear in the same rôle at a later date at other institutions.

Dr. Houssay is professor of physiology in the faculty of medicine at the Institute of Physiology of the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina. He is an authority on the physiology of the endocrines, particularly upon the hypophysis and its relationship to metabolism. It was his work that brought out the very startling relationship between the anterior pituitary and the pancreas. He was able to demonstrate that when both the pituitary gland and the pancreas were removed no marked diabetic condition resulted, in sharp contrast with results when the pancreas alone was removed. In addition to this he succeeded in obtaining from the anterior lobe of the pituitary gland an extract which when injected into normal animals