

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

exhibited a diabetogenic action. There is considerable controversy at the present time concerning the manner in which this diabetogenic substance acts. The controversy centers around the question of whether it works directly on the pancreas, directly on sugar metabolism in the muscles or whether its action is mediated through the thyroid gland or adrenal gland.

Dr. Houssay will give the address at the afternoon general session on Tuesday, December 31. He will speak on the hypophysis and metabolism at 4:30 in Assembly Room 4 of the Municipal Auditorium. He takes the period vacated by Dr. Karl F. Meyer, of the Hooper Foundation in San Francisco, who has been compelled to cancel his trip east and will not be able to deliver the address which was listed in the preliminary announcement recently published in *SCIENCE*.

DESPITE assurance that auditorium rooms were satisfactory for scientific sessions we find them unfinished and some without partitions. After careful study of the situation the local committee recommends and I agree that we must move all biological societies to Washington University Campus. This is unfortunate, since societies have mailed members programs showing auditorium assignments. All changes will be recorded in the official program available on registration at St. Louis.

HENRY B. WARD,
Permanent Secretary

THE ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION AND THE GENERAL EDUCATION BOARD

At the offices of the General Education Board it was announced on December 12 that Raymond B. Fosdick had been elected president of the board, to take office on July 1, 1936, on the retirement of Trevor Arnett, who has been associated with the board as trustees and president for a great many years.

At the offices of the Rockefeller Foundation it was announced that Mr. Fosdick had also been elected president of the foundation, to take office on July 1, 1936. Dr. Max Mason, the present president of the foundation, some time ago submitted his resignation to take effect on December 31, 1935, but at the earnest request of the trustees, through John D. Rockefeller, Jr., the chairman of the board, he has been persuaded to continue in office at least until next spring so that Mr. Fosdick may have opportunity to arrange for his own retirement from the law firm of Curtis, Fosdick and Belknap, of which he has been a member for many years, and from other corporations with which he is now connected and associations he now has.

In response to inquiry as to the significance of the election of Mr. Fosdick as president of both boards, it was stated that the General Education Board plans to

expend increasing amounts of its principal funds over a period of years; this may finally result in their complete exhaustion. Meanwhile, to avoid any overlapping in the activities of the two boards, it seemed wise to have one administrator for both.

In accepting Dr. Mason's resignation, the trustees of the Rockefeller Foundation expressed its deep appreciation of his services during the six years of his incumbency. He assumed the administrative burden at a time when, due to the consolidation of a number of programs in the Rockefeller Foundation, the organization was confronted with new and heavy responsibilities. It is said that under his leadership these programs in the various fields of knowledge have been brought together into a single unity, and harmonized in relation to a common objective, *i.e.*, the problem of human behavior.

RECENT DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. HOWARD MCCLENAHAN, since 1925 secretary of the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, previously professor of physics and dean of the college at Princeton University, died on December 17, at the age of sixty-three years.

PROFESSOR ARTHUR TAYLOR ROWE, associate dean and head of the department of prosthetics of the School of Dental and Oral Surgery of Columbia University, and Dr. Paul B. Wiberg, associate professor of dentistry, were shot and killed, and Dr. William H. Crawford, associate professor, wounded, on December 13. The assassin, Victor Koussow, a handyman in the laboratory, a Russian emigré who is assumed to have been insane, then killed himself.

DR. FREDERICK ROBERT ZEIT, professor of pathology of Northwestern University Medical School, died in Coronado, Calif., on December 5 at the age of seventy-one years. Dr. Zeit had been a member of the faculty for thirty-seven years.

DR. LEOPOLDO A. FAUSTINO, assistant director of the Philippine Bureau of Science, died on November 8. He was forty-three years old.

Nature reports the death of Professor Jakob Schetelig, professor of mineralogy and geology in the University of Oslo.

A MEMORIAL service in honor of the late Dr. Henry Fairfield Osborn was held at St. Bartholomew's Church, New York City, on December 18. Addresses were delivered by Dr. James Rowland Angell, president of Yale University; Dr. Harold Willis Dodds, president of Princeton University, and Dr. Henry Sloane Coffin, president of Union Theological Seminary.

A MEMORIAL lecture, sponsored by the University of