to apply it mainly to the extension of experimental research.

Shortly after information as to the legacy had been received, the freehold of 19 Albemarle Street, immediately adjoining the Davy Faraday Research Laboratory and the rest of the institution's buildings, came into the market. With the double object of investing Mr. Brown's legacy and providing for future extensions of the premises, it was resolved to purchase the property. The purchase has now been completed. For the present the institution will use the top two floors of the new house for storage of books and apparatus, releasing valuable accommodation elsewhere for other purposes. It is proposed to let the lower floors, and to devote any income obtained to research purposes. Eventually, as the research activities are enlarged, it may prove necessary to occupy a larger part of the house.

Nature states that it was noticed last April that a sinking had occurred of the ceiling of the library on the first floor at the Royal Institution, and of the floor of Sir William Bragg's rooms immediately above. The ceiling, which was old and of timber construction, was found to be defective. It was temporarily propped, and at the end of the lecture season a thorough examination was made. An astonishing state of disrepair was discovered. Not only was the heavy timber ceiling defective, but also the brick walls upon which it was supported were cracked and broken in all directions. The examination was carried down to the rooms on the ground floor and here a similar state of affairs was revealed. When in 1799 the Royal Institution was founded, a large town house was purchased and considerably altered to suit its new purpose. Further alterations have been made at intervals. Vulliamy added the Corinthian column front in 1837. In 1930 a large part of the building, including the lecture theater, was completely reconstructed, but the library and rooms below it were left untouched. These it has now proved necessary to rebuild.

The reconstruction is now in progress. The defective brickwork of the walls is being replaced, including that of the front wall, which is being worked at from the inside, so that the elevation of Albemarle Street will remain untouched. New fire-resisting floors are to be supported on a steel structure, which is being erected within the walls. The steel work, the foundations for which are being carried to basement level, will also serve to strengthen the rebuilt walls. When completed, the rooms on the first and second floors will appear much as they were before, but advantage is being taken of the alterations to construct a large new research laboratory in the basement. The work is expected to be completed in April, and it is understood that it will cost about £12,000.

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE PHYTOPATHOLOGISTS OF BRAZIL

THE result of preliminary conversations during several years, and of the activity of an organizing committee, consisting of H. S. V. Grillo, chief of the Section of Plant Pathology of the Instituto de Biologia Vegetal of the Ministry of Agriculture; A. S. Müller, professor of plant pathology of the Escola Superior de Agricultura do Estado de Minas Geraes, and N. Azevedo, of the same institute, the first reunion of phytopathologists of Brazil was held in Rio de Janeiro from January 20 to 25, 1936.

The inaugural session was presided over by the Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Odilon Braga, who installed as president of the reunion Dr. A. A. Bitancourt, sub-director of the Instituto Biologico de São Paulo, elected in preparatory session by the members of the reunion.

The daily program of the meeting consisted in excursions at 9:00, special sessions at 3:00 and general sessions opened to the public at 5:00, held in the library of the historical Jardin Botanico of Rio.

Papers were presented on the history of phytopathology in Brazil, the need for the development of phytopathology in Brazil, the teaching of phytopathology in Brazil, the organization of plant protection in various countries, fungus flora in Brazil, quarantines, spraying machinery, as well as various papers on fungicides, specific plant disease problems and related subjects.

Through the cooperation of Dr. J. Campos Porto, director of the Instituto de Biologia Vegetal do Rio, a special number of the official journal of the institute, *Rodriguesia*, will be dedicated to the proceedings of the meetings, and will contain the titles and abstracts of these papers or entire papers when short.

A special committee was selected to serve during the year 1936, for the study of the projects and suggestions which appeared, relative to phytopathological nomenclature, plant disease surveys, plant protection legislation, future meetings and the formation of a society. The members are A. A. Bitancourt, H. S. V. Grillo, A. S. Müller, H. P. Krug and N. Fagundes.

A social gathering was held one afternoon at the home of the director of the institute, within the Botanical Gardens, in the form of a tea, offered by the Minister of Agriculture.

ALBERT S. MÜLLER,
Acting Secretary

WORK OF THE COMMITTEE ON UNEMPLOYMENT AND RELIEF FOR CHEMISTS AND CHEMICAL ENGINEERS

THE Committee on Unemployment and Relief for Chemists and Chemical Engineers, also known as Chem-

ists' Unemployment Committee, was formed in the winter of 1931 and began to function actively in the early part of 1932. It is sponsored by the following technical societies in the Greater Metropolitan area: American Chemical Society (New York and North Jersey Sections), American Gas Association, American Institute of Chemical Engineers, American Institute of Chemists, Association of Consulting Chemists and Chemical Engineers, Inc., Association of Municipal Chemists of the City of New York, Compressed Gas Manufacturers Association, Electrochemical Society, Société de Chimie Industrielle (American Section), Society of Chemical Industry (American Section), Technical Association of Pulp and Paper Industry and the Chemists' Club.

It is acting under the guidance and advice of representatives of the above societies, together with leaders in the chemical profession:

First: The committee aims to do what it can to provide positions for those unemployed qualified applicants who register with it. Positions will in general be one of the following classes: Chemical work, either temporary or permanent; temporary non-chemical work, and temporary relief work.

Second: The committee tries to secure a proportionate share of city, state and federal funds devoted to unemployed relief and make them available for qualified registrants or suggest useful chemical projects which these agencies may authorize.

Third: The committee undertakes to raise funds to carry on this work and to supplement them with the assistance that can be obtained from other organizations.

When the committee began its work in 1931, it was faced with an unusual number of those in dire need and distress. Due to the limited funds available at its disposal, it had to seek assistance from organizations financed by public funds, such as the Gibson Committee, Bliss Committee, etc., and when these organizations went out of existence, it sought help from city, state and federal bureaus which took over the work. Due to the assistance received from these agencies, supplemented by the funds contributed by the profession, the committee has successfully eliminated destitution and distress among those registered.

The circumstances of those on the present active file, as determined from our November 1, 1935, canvass, show that more than two hundred are willing to accept any useful work, such as jobs on WPA projects, technical or non-technical jobs, but none is willing to go through the routine established by the Home Relief Bureau. However, there are a few cases still applying for financial aid, which is given in the form of "made-work," loans, food, clothing, etc.

The committee's work is financed from funds contributed by individuals in the profession. Since 1932 1,278 donors have responded to calls for help. Thirty-nine companies voluntarily contributed. Chemists and chemical engineers employed in sixteen laboratories, representing 199 persons, sent in group contributions from their respective laboratories. A total sum of $47,210 has been received as a result of these appeals. Through the courtesy of prominent chemical companies, office space and equipment needed for the office have been donated. The advisory and executive bodies have given their services without compensation. In expending the funds contributed the committee observes the strictest economy in its routine.

PRESENTATION OF THE WILLIAM H. NICHOLS MEDAL TO DR. CLARK

FOR researches "of incalculable value to human welfare" the William H. Nichols Medal of the New York Section of the American Chemical Society for 1936 was presented on March 6 to Dr. William Mansfield Clark, Delmar professor of physiological chemistry in the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, at a dinner given by the section at the Hotel Pennsylvania.

Professor A. Baird Hastings, of the Harvard University Medical School, in describing Dr. Clark's work said:

The investigation of the problems of oxidation and reduction, involving balances in the exchange of electrons, or electrons and protons, between substances, are being prosecuted with profit in all fields of science and industry. Wherever such investigations are under way, the contributions of Dr. Clark and his collaborators constitute the foundation of the work.

In a series of classic papers Dr. Clark clearly developed the meaning of pH, its place in biological problems, and a description of accurate methods for its determination. He reported in detail the preparation and characteristics of that beautiful series of acid-base indicators which are to be found in almost every laboratory the world over.

His scientific studies have found their way into the hands of bacteriologists, biological chemists, analytical chemists, physiologists, pathologists, pharmacologists, clinicians and engineers, to name but a few. His work has found its uses in the leather, the bread, the brewing, the paper, the sugar, the cement, the rubber and the dairy industries, and countless other fields of scientific activity.

Professor A. W. Hixson, of Columbia University, chairman of the Nichols Medal Jury of Award, presented the medal to Dr. Clark. Dr. Donald D. Van Slyke, of the Rockefeller Institute, spoke on "The Medalist's Personal Career." Dr. Lawrence W. Bass, of the Borden Company, chairman of the New York section, presided. Professor Clark's medal address was entitled, "A Little of the Perspective of Acid-Base and Oxidation-Reduction Equilibria."

Professor Clark is a member of the editorial board of *The Journal of Biological Chemistry,* president of