The printed reports, voluminous though they are, by no means include all the material of interest to scholars, and the printed briefs are usually to be found only in the files of the courts. The records of Congress, known as Senate Files and House Files, also are very miscellaneous in subject-matter and have been printed in considerable part; but they include much valuable unpublished material, such as petitions and memorials, copies of documents the originals of which have disappeared from departmental files and records of committee hearings and transactions.

Enough has been said to make it clear that the body of records known as the national archives is of vital importance for the advancement of science on many fronts. It remains to consider briefly, in conclusion, the contributions that may be made to the advancement of science by the new institution known as The National Archives. Obviously these will be primarily along the line of promoting the preservation of the archives themselves, making their content and value known, and making them readily available to scientists wherever located. These results should be achieved not only for the material transferred to the custody of the archivist but also for that retained by the departments, in view of the authority given to the archivist to inspect the records of government agencies wherever they are and to make recommendations to Congress with reference to proposals for the destruction of supposedly useless papers. It may be confidently expected, moreover, that The National Archives will make many contributions to what may for convenience be called archival science. Certainly it will engage in research on problems involved in the repair, preservation, reproduction and utilization of documents and of film records; and its discoveries should tend to promote improvement in the treatment of archives and historical manuscripts in depositories throughout the country.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

A PROTEST AGAINST THE EXPLOITATION OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

A PROTEST has been issued by the following organizations concerned with conservation against the exploitation of the Rocky Mountain National Park: The National Association of Audubon Societies, Izaak Walton League of America, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the American Planning and Civic Association, the American Forestry Association, the Garden Club of America, the American Wildlife Institute, the National Parks Association, the Society of American Foresters, the American Association of Museums, the National Conference on State Parks, the Massachusetts Forest and Park Association and the Wilderness Society.

The protest reads:

Believing that the National Parks, set aside for the use, enjoyment and education of the people of the United States, should be protected from commercial exploitation, we earnestly protest against congressional authorization of a project to dig a thirteen-mile tunnel through Rocky Mountain National Park, to transform Grand Lake into a reservoir, and to build some eight thousand feet of covered ditch within the park in order to divert water from the Colorado River watershed into the Platte River watershed.

We submit that the Grand Lake-Big Thompson Intermountain Diversion project, included by the Senate on March 2 as a rider to the Interior Department Appropriation Bill, has not been adequately investigated, has not been approved by the Budget Bureau, and has not been considered by the appropriate committees in either house of Congress.

Moreover, the Congress by amendment to the Federal Power Act has enunciated the policy that National Parks should be exempt from power projects. The scheme to divert the waters of beautiful Grand Lake and to tunnel through the heart of the Rocky Mountain National Park involves the development of power and the construction of unsightly power lines near the eastern and southern boundaries and across a scenic area which has long been contemplated for addition to the park.

In the building of the tunnel the disposition of debris will deface the landscape and leave a scar on the wilderness character of the park and its environs. We have no faith in promises to maintain the level of Grand Lake if water becomes needed for power or growing crops in dry years.

We submit that this project violates the most sacred principle of National Parks, namely, freedom from commercial or economic exploitation and that if approved by Congress it will establish a precedent for the commercial invasion of other parks. We urge that the American people rally to the defense of their National Park system and demand of Congress that this project be stopped.

CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS

IN a report of progress on the work of *Chemical Abstracts*, the editor, Professor E. J. Crane, of the Ohio State University, states that the total number of abstracts of papers describing original investigation in science and industry, together with abstracts of patents, aggregated 61,834 during the past year, an increase of 1,639 over the previous twelve months.

Biological chemistry was far in advance of all other fields, being credited with 10,486 abstracts. General and physical chemistry was second with 4,044, and organic chemistry third with 3,299. Articles number-

ing 2,781 were devoted to subatomic phenomena and radiochemistry. Abstracts in twenty-four classifications dealt directly with industrial research. The chief fields included: Metallurgy and metallography, 2,338 abstracts; soils, fertilizers and agricultural poisons, 1,993; foods, 1,434; pharmaceutical chemistry, 1,175; fuels, gas, tar and coke, 1,144; petroleum, lubricants, asphalt and wood products, 1,021; water, sewage and sanitation, 924; glass, clay products, refractories and enameled metals, 872; dyes and textile chemistry, 855; mineralogical and geological chemistry, 828; cellulose and paper, 775; electrochemistry, 750; apparatus, plant equipment and unit operations, 736.

Chemical industry and miscellaneous industrial products, 618; paints, varnishes and natural resins, 617; fats, fatty oils, waxes and soaps, 607; acids, alkalies, salts and other heavy chemicals, 543; cement and other building materials, 529; fermentation industries, 478; rubber and allied substances, 449; sugar, starch and gums, 428; leather and glue, 367; photography, 289; explosives and explosions, 181.

Chemical Abstracts is a non-commercial agency which aims to bring to science and industry knowledge of developments in chemistry wherever arising. It reflects the greatest activity in the twenty-eight years of its history.

The report states that more than 2,000 scientific journals published in many languages are examined systematically by 500 chemists who work under the direction of Professor Crane and a staff of forty-five assistant editors. Chemical patents are also abstracted, and these, too, provide evidence of industrial readiness.

THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CONFERENCES IN BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS

THE departments of biology, chemistry and physics of the Johns Hopkins University will hold a research conference this summer at Gibson Island near Baltimore. The conference will be under the general direction of Professor Neil E. Gordon and will run five weeks from June 22 to July 24. The plan is flexible, varying from day to day according to the nature of the topic under discussion and the wishes of those participating. The day begins with a more or less formal lecture outlining some field of research and directing attention to its unsolved problems. This is followed by a discussion in which each one present takes part, making what contribution he can to the solution of the problems presented. The ideal is to have a group large enough so that all points of view may be represented, yet small enough that all who wish may take active part. The plan is for recognized leaders in each field of research to give the lectures and start the discussions. Its success depends on having a number in the group who are capable of contributing ideas. The remainder of the day is left to sports or conversations. These conferences are intended to combine mental stimulation, pleasant personal contacts and healthful recreation. The Gibson Island Club generously shares its facilities with scientists for this period. The club has an excellent golf course, fine tennis courts and splendid swimming and beaches. There is excellent fishing in the surrounding Chesapeake. Attendants on the conferences may secure rooms in the club or adjacent cottages or may come from Baltimore for the day. Meals for all are served at the club.

The program given below is to be regarded as tentative, to be filled in or modified as may seem best.

A. *Nuclear Physics*—John A. Fleming, *chairman*, June 22–27. Speakers: Drs. E. Fermi and F. Rasetti, M. A. Tuve, G. Breit, J. W. Beams.

B. *Photochemistry*—W. A. Noyes, Jr., *chairman*, June 29 to July 4. Speakers: Drs. E. Teller and O. R. Wulf, R. S. Mulliken, L. A. Turner and P. A. Leighton.

C. *Tissue Respiration*—Charles Glen King, *chairman*, July 6–11. Speakers: Drs. K. A. C. Elliott, C. A. Elvehjem, E. S. G. Barron and F. Bernheim.

D. *Chemistry of Olefins from Petroleum*—Thomas Midgley, Jr., *chairman*, July 13–18. Speakers: Drs. F. C. Whitmore, B. T. Brooks and G. Egloff.

E. *Synthetic Resins*—Leo H. Baekeland, *chairman*, July 20–25. Speakers: Drs. E. E. Reid, H. L. Bender, H. J. Barrett, H. A. Bruson, J. R. M. Klotz, H. T. Neher, G. O. Curme, Jr., and S. D. Douglas, I. Allen, Jr., T. F. Bradley, A. M. Howald, L. V. Redman.

NEIL E. GORDON

IN HONOR OF GEORGE ELLERY HALE

To honor Dr. George Ellery Hale, a symposium was held at the Harvard Observatory on the afternoon of Tuesday, April 7. Brief talks by eight scientists presented some of the important phases of Dr. Hale's work and gave a picture of his extraordinary achievements and his great influence on American science, especially on astronomy. His contributions to astronomy began in his college days, when he first experimented in solar photography. From then on he continued his scientific work, through his student days at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (when he was also a volunteer observer at the Harvard Observatory). Later, while he built the Kenwood Observatory and then organized the Yerkes Observatory in connection with the University of Chicago, he carried on not only the laborious administrative work but a great deal of astronomical research as well.

Science in many fields is indebted to Dr. Hale for