meets annually, usually with the American Association for the Advancement of Science or the American Historical Association, and participated actively in the second International Congress of the History of Science and Technology in London in 1931.

The History of Science Society is now entering upon its thirteenth year of activity, and although it is one of the youngest of the learned societies, the interest shown in it at the outset continues unabated. This interest was such that the initial membership has grown to over 700. It is hoped that the earnest support thus far accorded may eventually lead to the endowment of *Isis* and even to that of the society itself.

It may also be observed that the society is the first, on any large scale, to afford a common meeting ground for scientists, historians and philosophers. Indeed, the study of the history of science seems to provide the only feasible method for bridging the widening gap between men of science on the one hand and men of letters on the other.

The annual programs of the society have been carefully prepared, and consequently have been the means of fostering some notable and original contributions. Probably the most outstanding programs were the following: the commemoration of the Bicentenary of the death of Sir Isaac Newton (1642–1727) given in November, 1927, and the Tercentenary Commemoration of the death of Johann Kepler given in 1931, both of which have been published. Another program of importance and one which invoked considerable interest was entitled "The History of Medicine and Civilization," given in 1928.

Isis, the official journal of the society, is a quarterly publication of international character and is edited by Dr. George Sarton, research associate of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, with the cooperation of eleven associate editors, each representing various fields of learning. This periodical is devoted to the history of science in its broadest aspects, and receives contributions from scholars in almost every branch of historical learning throughout the world. A helpful feature of the publication is the annotated bibliographical contributions, which are arranged both by period and by subject, so that a scholar wishing to work in special branches or in certain epochs of scientific development finds his material already assembled. The reviews are by noted specialists in their respective fields and form one of the most important features of the journal.

In addition it publishes facsimiles of the great classics in the history of science; for example, Sir Isaac Newton's original communication to the Royal Society of London on his "New Theory about Light and Colors," and also the first joint communication of Charles Darwin and Alfred Wallace on "The Perpetuation of Varieties and Species to Form Varieties" and on "The Perpetuation of Varieties and Species by Natural Means of Selection." The illustrations accompanying the original articles, including portraits, have much historical value, and it is the desire of the editor to enlarge upon this feature in future numbers. The society is now publishing the twenty-fourth volume of *Isis*.

The society also undertakes to publish from time to time through its revolving book fund, granted by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, important contributions in the field of the history of science, which are not within the scope of commercial publishing firms. The following are the titles of the new series thus far published: "The Black Death and Men of Learning," by Anna Montgomery Campbell, 1931; "Correspondence and Papers of Edmond Halley, Preceded by an Unpublished Memoir of His Life by One of His Contemporaries," and the "Eloge," by D'Otrous de Mairan, edited by Eugene Fairfield MacPike, 1932; De Venarum Ostiolis 1603 of Hieronymus Fabricius of Aquapendente (1553?–1619), Facsimile Edition with Introduction, Translation and Notes, by K. J. Franklin, 1933; "The Background of Modern Science," 2 volumes, by Lynn Thorndike, 1934; "Scientific Organizations in Seventeenth Century France (1620–1680)," by Harcourt Brown, 1934; "Jöns Jacob Berselius, Autobiographical Notes," published by The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences through H. G. Söderbaum and translated from the Swedish by Olof Larsell, 1934; "The Modernization of the Medical Sciences," by Dr. Richard H. Shryock, 1936 (in press).

It is very evident from the foregoing account that the history of science movement, together with the present influence and progress of this society, have combined to build for Dr. Smith a monument which his fondest hopes did not envision. The intellectual world owes him a great debt, and the officers of this society take this opportunity to acknowledge that indebtedness and to offer him their congratulations.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

ACQUISITION OF BULL ISLAND FOR A BIRD REFUGE

BULL ISLAND near Charleston, S. C., has been bought by the U. S. Biological Survey for a bird refuge. The island is part of a land-and-water tract of about 7,700 acres which has been added to the 55,000-acre Cape Romain Migratory Bird Refuge in South Carolina. The new purchase brings the water frontage of Cape Romain Refuge to about 25 miles.

Except as a haven for wildlife, for which it is well

adapted, Bull Island has had an unprofitable history over 250 years. It has repeatedly failed as a cotton plantation, becoming later a timber reserve.

A wooded hill ten miles long and four miles wide on an average, the island is some eighteen miles northeast of the port of Charleston. The Atlantic lies off its outer shore. The inner shore overlooks a waste of marsh grasses and tidal currents out of which, after some miles, the solid farming land of Charleston County emerges.

As far back as colonial days chroniclers remarked upon, and attempted to classify, the flocks of wild fowl which frequented the fresh-water ponds that dotted the island. In 1935, after a lapse of hundreds of years, an agent of the Biological Survey, recommending the purchase of the property by the government for the uses of wildlife, noted that the center of the island is still a primeval forest where a great variety of birds can be found throughout the year.

Some of the most frequent visitors to the refuge are the great blue heron, the American egret, the snowy heron, the green heron, the Louisiana heron, the black-crowned night heron, the long-billed and Hudsonian curlews, the laughing and the ring-billed gulls, plovers of many species, the oyster catcher, the brown pelican and the royal tern. Besides these and other birds which frequent the area, Bull Island is a haven for ducks of many species, wild turkey, shore birds, deer and wild hogs. Canvasbacks are found there in considerable numbers, this being probably their southern flight limit in large flocks, on the Atlantic coast.

Among the hundreds of thousands of acres of submarginal land recently taken over in various parts of the country by the Biological Survey as nesting and feeding grounds for wildlife, Bull Island stands out as an area in which animals are still abundant. Most of the newly acquired areas have been partially or wholly deserted by birds and four-footed game and must be restored as havens.

Measures to maintain the attractions to wildlife on the island and to facilitate its administration as a sanctuary are now being carried out by the survey. Sand ridges on the outer shore of Bull Island will be rebuilt. Fresh-water ponds on the island will be newly dyked and impounded. Some new aquatic plants which have been established elsewhere as a natural duck-food will be imported and sown. Radio telephones are contemplated as a connection between the island and the refuge headquarters on the mainland ten miles away. General improvements being made on the entire Cape Romain Refuge include new docks projected both on Bull Island and on the mainland.

SUMMER CONFERENCES ON SPECTROSCOPY AND COLOR AT THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

THE Massachusetts Institute of Technology has recently announced a special summer program on applied physics which will feature a conference on spectroscopy and its application, to be held on July 20, 21 and 22, and a conference on color to be held on July 23, 24 and 25. These two conferences have been planned as a unit, since the two subjects are closely related.

During the first three days of the week, morning and afternoon sessions will be held, with discussions by qualified experts on spectroscopic analysis of materials, and on other applications of spectroscopy to biology, medicine, chemistry, metallurgy, mineralogy and to industrial and engineering problems.

During the Color Conference, morning and afternoon meetings will be held with discussions by eminent authorities on the subject of color and its various applications. This conference will be devoted to spectrophotometry, colorimetry and the applications of color measurements to industrial problems. Detailed consideration will be given to the behavior and control of the color of dyes and pigments, and their application in such fields as the paint, ink, paper, textile and the ceramics industries.

These conferences come at the conclusion of the courses on spectroscopic analysis of materials which are being offered during the six weeks from June 16 to July 24. These deal principally with applications of spectroscopy to biology, chemistry, geology, metallurgy, physics and other branches of science.

There is no charge for attendance at the meetings of the conferences, copies of the detailed programs of which will be sent on request to any one interested. The object of the conferences is to promote cooperation between investigators in different fields who have found or may find useful the technical methods of spectroscopy and color. Information in regard to the conferences should be addressed to Professor G. R. Harrison, of the department of physics.

THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE ON THEORETICAL PHYSICS

SCIENTIFIC men from American and foreign universities gathered in Washington on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, April 27, 28 and 29, for the second Washington Conference on Theoretical Physics under the joint auspices of the Carnegie Institution of Washington and the George Washington University.

These annual conferences are an outgrowth of the