planned, consist first of a group of "study tours," each to last from 5 days to 2 weeks, to be scheduled both before and after the conference in accordance with the preferences of delegates. These "study tours" will be laid out according to major special technical interests of delegates. They will cover practically everything that can be seen in the way of power production, transmission and utilization east of the Mississippi. Second, a three week's post-conference transcontinental tour by special train is being planned to include Glacier Park, the Grand Coulee, Seattle, San Francisco and Boulder Dam.

The World Power Conference acts through national committees or representatives of some 50 nations. The national committees are made up in general of representatives of the governments of those countries, of the technical societies, of their educational institutions and of trade groups interested in power.

Plenary conferences are held every six years; the first was in London in 1924, the second in Berlin in 1930. At intervals there are sectional regional conferences for the discussion of specific problems.

Between conferences the permanent International Executive Council—of which Sir Harold Hartley, of Great Britain, is now chairman—holds annual meetings planning for future conferences and disposing of matters brought up at past conferences, the latter generally of a technical nature. There is a permanent headquarters in London.

An international Commission on Large Dams was organized on French initiative in 1930 as part of the World Power Conference; G. Mercier, of France, is chairman.

AWARD OF THE MEYER MEDAL TO P. H. DORSETT

THE Meyer Medal for distinguished service in plant introduction was presented on June 13 to P. H. Dorsett, who for over forty-five years has been associated with the scientific work of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The presentation was made by Dr. David Fairchild, on behalf of the council of the American Genetic Association, at the Plant Introduction Station of the U. S. Department of Agriculture at Bell, Maryland.

Mr. Dorsett's greatest contribution to American agriculture was made between 1924 and 1927, when he was instrumental in bringing together the largest collection of soybean varieties that has ever been made. Two expeditions to China were undertaken to make this collection. On the first trip Mr. Dorsett and his son, the late James Dorsett, collected over 2,000 samples from Nanking and vicinity. On the second expedition, Mr. Dorsett and Dr. William J. Morse, soybean expert of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, collected over 6,000 samples which were sent to the United States for test. A total number of over 2,000 distinct varieties of soybeans was obtained from these samples. These are being tested in many places to determine their value to the American farmer. Some of them are already being widely used.

Mr. Dorsett also took part in three expeditions to obtain new varieties of plants to Brazil (1913–14) and to the West Indies in 1927–30. He was instrumental in bringing into the United States valuable citrus varieties and many rare ornamental plants which are now being tested in the plant introduction station of the U. S. Government. He has also spent many years engaged in research in methods of utilizing plant introductions in American agriculture.

The Meyer Medal is awarded at intervals by the council of the American Genetic Association for distinguished services in plant introduction. It is named in honor of the late Frank Meyer, pioneer plant explorer of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and had its origin in a fund left by him to his fellow workers in plant introduction, who voted to use it for this purpose. Mr. Meyer spent the last nine years of his life in plant explorations in China. He never returned from his last expedition, having been drowned on the Yangtze River in 1919.

THE SEMI-CENTENNIAL RESEARCH PRIZES OF SIGMA XI

THE Sigma Xi Semi-Centennial Research Prizes of one thousand dollars each have been awarded for work in the biological sciences to Dr. Richard E. Shope, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, Princeton, N. J., and for work in the physical sciences to Professor I. I. Rabi, of Columbia University.

In presenting the prizes at the semi-centennial meeting of the society, which was held at Cornell University on June 19 and 20, Dr. William F. Durand, national president of Sigma Xi, said:

> All the chapters and clubs of Sigma Xi were asked to name one candidate for each of these awards, and to accompany their nomination with a statement of the project upon which the candidate is at work, together with supporting letters from three prominent scientists who are acquainted with the candidate and with the importance of his project.
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> There was a total of 85 different candidates—43 for the physical sciences and 42 for the biological sciences. The committee held two conferences at which all members were present, and a sub-committee on the physical sciences, and a sub-committee on the biological sciences had several conferences each. The committee called into counsel numerous individuals other than the original sponsors of the candidates, regarding the ability of can-