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-

didates and the importance of their work in their particular field.

This statement of the conditions under which these awards have been made will be a sufficient indication of the severity of the scrutiny under which the work of the two present recipients has passed and of the high order of merit which must have been put in evidence in order that they should have been selected from this wide field of choice.

And now it becomes my very pleasant duty to announce the award of the Sigma Xi Semi-Centennial Research Prize of one thousand dollars for work in the biological sciences to Dr. Richard E. Shope, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, Princeton, N. J., for the work he has done on the etiology of swine influenza—particularly for determining the dual nature of this disease, and thus establishing a principle which it is believed will have wide application in the control of infective diseases.

Dr. Shope was born in Des Moines, Ia., December 25, 1901. He received his M.D. degree at Iowa University in 1924. He was instructor in pharmacology and materia medica in the College of Medicine at the University of Ohio for one year, and has been at Rockefeller Institute since 1925. His particular work has been in the field of animal pathology and filterable viruses.

Dr. Shope, it affords me very great pleasure, on behalf of Sigma Xi, to hand to you the substantial evidence of this award and to wish for you a long and fruitful life in the further pursuit of scientific research in your chosen field.

The Sigma Xi Semi-Centennial Research Prize of one thousand dollars for work in the physical sciences is awarded to Professor I. I. Rabi, of Columbia University, for work which he has done on molecular beams, and particularly on the magnetic moments of the proton and deuteron, and because of the promise that this work holds for the future.

Dr. Rabi was born in Rymanow, July 29, 1898. He received his Ph.D. at Columbia in 1927. He was a fellow in physics at Columbia for one year, and has been assistant professor of physics at Columbia since 1930. His specialty has been in magnetism and quantum mechanics, and particularly in molecular beams.

And now, Dr. Rabi, it affords me very great pleasure, on behalf of Sigma Xi, to hand to you the substantial evidence of this award and to wish for you, too, a long and fruitful life in the future pursuit of scientific research in your chosen field.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

AT the commencement exercises of Harvard University the doctorate of laws was conferred on Dr. Isaiah Bowman and the doctorate of science on Dr. Elmer Drew Merrill and on Dr. Frank Baldwin Jewett. The citations were as follows: Isaiah Bowman, president of the Johns Hopkins University—"A distinguished geographer who maps with a bold and steady hand the future of an illustrious university." Elmer Drew Merrill, professor of botany and administrator of botanical collections at Harvard University—"A botanist famed for his investigations of the flora of the Philippines, an administrator marked by his effectiveness in many posts." Frank Baldwin Jewett, electrical engineer, president of the Bell Telephone Laboratories since 1925—"The creator of a famous laboratory whence came miracles of modern telephony, an engineer who points the way for industry to follow."

IN presenting Dr. E. P. Hubble for the degree of doctor of science at Princeton University, Dr. Luther P. Eisenhart, dean of the Graduate School, made the following citation: "Edwin Powell Hubble, staff member of the Mount Wilson Observatory; graduate of the University of Chicago and of Oxford, as a Rhodes scholar; member of the National Academy of Sciences and Astronomical Societies in this country and abroad; by an extensive, well-planned campaign of observation and unusual insight in interpretation he has supplied the first real understanding of the nature of the nebulae, showing that the diffuse nebulae are clouds of dust or gas in our galaxy, and that the spiral and elliptical white nebulae are swarms of stars, external to our galaxy, receding with enormous velocities and millions of light years distant; a Ulysses embarked with his telescope upon a great adventure in our expanding universe, seeking knowledge 'beyond the utmost bound of human thought.'"

DR. THOMAS BARBOUR, director of the Museum of Comparative Zoology of Harvard University, received on June 15 the honorary degree of doctor of science from Dartmouth College.

COLBY COLLEGE conferred on June 15 the honorary degree of doctor of laws, posthumously, on the late John Hays Hammond, mining engineer. Dr. Hammond, who died on June 8, was to have been a speaker at the one hundred and fifteenth commencement dinner.

THE honorary doctorate of laws was conferred on June 3 by the University of Toronto on Dr. George F. Kay, who for twenty years has been dean of the College of Liberal Arts of the State University of Iowa and who for more than twenty years was head of the department of geology and director of the Iowa Geological Survey. Dr. Kay graduated from the University of Toronto in the year 1900.