

obligation to the university that differed in any way from the obligation which they have to other institutions of similar rank.

We emphasize this point because in some quarters it has been intimated that public opinion in the Middle West and elsewhere has believed that the Rockefeller board bore a peculiar and unique relationship to the university which was not shared by other educational institutions. For the sake of the university itself, and the necessity which it faces of developing a broad basis of financial support, we would want emphatically to disavow this opinion.

Of the \$360,000 a year to be devoted to medicine, \$250,000 continues present grants and \$110,000 probably will be used to support free beds in the university hospitals. This sum would support 46 free beds, and contribute to the educational and scientific effectiveness of the faculty of the school. The money made available for general purposes of the university probably will be used for new appointments, research, library books and salary increases.

#### AWARD OF THE EDISON MEDAL TO DR. ALEX DOW

DR. ALEX DOW, president of the Detroit Edison Company, has been awarded the Edison Medal for 1936 of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers "for outstanding leadership in the development of the central station industry and its service to the public." The medal, which was founded by friends and associates of the late Thomas A. Edison and is awarded annually for "meritorious achievement in electrical science, electrical engineering, or the electrical arts," will be presented to Dr. Dow during the winter convention of the institute in New York City, which will be held from January 25 to 29.

Dr. Dow was born in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1862, and although he is not a graduate of a technical school, he has received the honorary degrees of master of engineering (1911) and doctor of engineering (1924) from the University of Michigan and doctor of science (1935) from the University of Detroit.

During the period 1874-82, he was employed as junior clerk and stenographer in a railroad office and in the offices of a steamship company in Liverpool, England. In 1882 he came to the United States, and was employed in various departments of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company. Later he was transferred to the Baltimore and Ohio Telegraph Company to take charge of local line and instrument maintenance, with some construction and experimental work on telephones. In 1888 he was employed by the Brush Electric Company, Cleveland, Ohio, as installation electrician in the Chicago office, becoming district engineer in that office in 1889. In 1893, he

accepted the opportunity to design and supervise the construction of the original public lighting plant of the city of Detroit, and in 1896 he became vice-president and general manager of the Edison Illuminating Company of Detroit. This company was succeeded by the Detroit Edison Company in 1903, and Dr. Dow was retained as vice-president until 1913, when he was made president.

Dr. Dow became a naturalized citizen in 1895. He has been a leading pioneer in the United States in the engineering, rate making and general operation of the electric light and power utility, and is given credit for both the engineering and financial success of his enterprises. He has supervised the design and construction of several generating stations of the Detroit Edison system and he is called the father of the so-called "big" steam boiler in the United States, having installed 2,350-horsepower boilers at a time when 600- to 750-horsepower units were commonly considered large. He was the first to adopt the underfeed stoker for large installations, and much of the earlier development of this type of equipment was made in his power plants.

#### OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

OFFICERS elected at the meeting of the council of the American Association on December 31 are as follows:

*President:* George D. Birkhoff, Harvard University.

*Permanent Secretary:* Forest R. Moulton, Chicago.

*General Secretary:* Otis W. Caldwell, Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research.

*Treasurer:* John L. Wirt, Washington.

*Members of the Executive Committee:* Edwin G. Conklin, Princeton University; Henry B. Ward, University of Illinois (emeritus).

*Members of the Council:* Vincent du Vigneaud, George Washington University; Sam F. Trelease, Columbia University.

*Members of the Finance Committee:* Arthur Keith, U. S. Geological Survey; Charles S. Baker, Washington.

*Members of the Grants Committee:* A. T. Poffenberger (Psychology), Columbia University; Jacob G. Lipman (Agriculture), New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station.

*Trustee on the Board of Science Service:* J. McKeen Cattell, editor of SCIENCE.

*Vice-presidents of the Association and Chairmen of the Sections:*

*Mathematics (A):* W. D. Cairns, Oberlin College.

*Physics (B):* Harvey Fletcher, Bell Telephone Laboratories.

*Chemistry (C):* Farrington Daniels, University of Wisconsin.