The rapid growth of the Duke experiments, and especially the development of similar work in other institutions of learning and elsewhere, has made it necessary to publish the journal to provide a proper outlet for articles in the field of study. The extraordinarily widespread public interest in this work, it is felt, justifies the founding of a magazine devoted entirely to these topics.

Parapsychology is a branch of psychology which includes such subjects as telepathy and clairvoyance and whatever other unusual capacities of mind may be discovered that do not fit into the recognized order of things. Although articles in the new Duke journal will be written in the usual scientific manner, they will not be unintelligible to the average educated person. The journal will have the special feature of presenting editorial abstracts of the articles to give the gist of each in non-technical terms.

The new journal is the first and only academic scientific journal devoted to the field of parapsychology. Though it is published at Duke, its columns are to be shared with other institutions where members are engaged in similar research.

Professor McDougall, eminent psychologist at Duke University, is a veteran in the field of parapsychology. He was formerly president of the English Society for Psychical Research and of other well-known organizations. He has been on scientific investigating committees and is considered the leading psychologist who has given his attention to the parapsychological branch.

Dr. Rhine has been in active charge of the experimental studies of clairvoyance and telepathy, or extra-sensory perception, as they are called, and has opened up through his book, "Extra-Sensory Perception," a new interest in these subjects and a new experimental attack that is world wide. Mr. Stuart is Prince memorial fellow at the Duke parapsychological laboratory and is the author of several articles on the subject.

THE FIRE IN LYMAN HALL OF NATURAL HISTORY, SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

THE following is a brief report on the serious fire in Lyman Hall of Natural History at Syracuse University on January 11.

Smoke issuing from the roof of the southeast wing at about 1:20 P. M. was the first observed indication of the fire on the outside of the building; and smoke from the ceiling and walls of one of the rooms on the fourth floor was the first indication that those within the building had of the fire. It apparently did not arise in either of the laboratories or the museum.

The damage to the Natural History Museum is serious, as many of the exhibits are irreplaceable. The main losses in the museum were reported in SCIENCE, January 22.

Professor Ernest Reed, chairman of the department of botany, had his laboratory for genetics, mycology and plant pathology on the fourth floor. All the illustrative material for the course in genetics, mycology and plant pathology has been lost. The large research collection of cultures of Fusarium and other fungi which Professor Reed and his graduate students have collected during the past fifteen years was destroyed. Professor Reed has also lost notes and materials of his twenty years of study of inheritance in the sugar beet. At the present time he is on a collecting trip in Colombia and Venezuela and it has not been possible to get word to him of the destruction of his laboratory.

Professor Parke Struthers, of the department of zoology, was also located on the fourth floor. He was in charge of the courses in comparative anatomy and vertebrate zoology. The collections and equipment in these fields accumulated during the past thirty years is almost a total loss. Professor Struthers's chief losses are his collection of separates, his embryological material on the porcupine and numerous collections of skeletons.

The fire losses were limited to the fourth floor, but the water damage extends to the basement. A roof is being put on, and it is expected that classes will be able to return to the building by February 15 to use the three floors and the basement.

The university is protected by insurance. Professors Reed and Struthers will have to build entirely their research material.

I am wondering whether those interested in genetics, mycology and plant pathology may not have extra separates that they would be willing to contribute to the department of botany; or those in comparative anatomy and vertebrate zoology, separates that they would give to the department of zoology. Any such gifts will be appreciated and should be mailed to the Main Library, Syracuse University, and marked "For the Department of Botany" or "For the Department of Zoology."

W. M. SMALLWOOD

THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE ON THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ENDOWMENTS

THE American Philosophical Society is sponsoring a joint meeting with representatives of foundations, societies and institutions administering funds in aid of research, to be held on February 19 and 20, in the hall of the society at Independence Square, Philadelphia.

On Friday, February 19, closed sessions, including round-table conferences, will be held from 10 A. M. to 1 P. M. and from 2 to 5 P. M., presided over by Dr. Edwin G. Conklin, vice-president of the society. Waldo G. Leland, permanent secretary of the American Council of Learned Societies, will open the discussion of some or all of the following subjects:

1. Grants-in-aid as distinguished from fellowships and scholarships.

2. Relative emphasis on projects and men.

3. To what extent should administration endeavor to seek out promising projects and men?

4. How best may reliable information be secured as to the merits of projects and the competence of applicants?

5. For what specific purposes should grants be made? *e.g.*, salary of applicant; travel and maintenance; assistance, technical and clerical; exhaustible supplies; equipment of lasting value, *e.g.*—apparatus, books, MSS, etc., and their ultimate disposal.

6. Desirable size limits of grants-in-aid. Should they be generous or limited to necessities?

7. Under what circumstances should grants be renewed, and should renewal be so frequent as to constitute continuous assistance?

8. What oversight or control should be exercised over the use of grants, the expenditure of money, the progress of research?

9. What have proved to be the most effective administrative devices for bringing systems of grants-in-aid to the attention of scholars, for handling applications, for assuring careful study of applications by experts and committees, and for making awards?

10. Is it desirable to promote large projects by relatively small grants from many sources?

11. Are prizes, whether competitive or honorary, an important means of promoting research?

12. Is it desirable to effect a better coordination among the various agencies that offer grants-in-aid, either as to the size of grants, the fields in which they are offered, or the overlapping of applications? What has been their distribution among fields of study and among grades of scholars?

Luncheon for members and invited guests will be served at 1 o'clock. At an open session on Friday evening at 8:15, Dr. Frederick P. Keppel, president of the Carnegie Corporation, New York, will speak on "The Responsibility of Endowments in the Promotion of Knowledge."

On Saturday morning an open session will be held at 10 o'clock on "The Most Important Methods of Promoting Research," as viewed by representatives of

1. Research Foundations and Institutions.
2. Learned Societies, Academies and Councils.
3. Universities, Professional and Technical Schools.
4. Research Workers and Recipient Institutions.

Roland S. Morris, president of the society, will preside over this session, and Dr. John C. Merriam, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, will make the opening address. A luncheon for members and invited guests has been arranged for 1 o'clock.

THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

THE Johns Hopkins School of Engineering will celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary with a series of events beginning on Friday evening, February 19, with a diversified modern engineering exhibit. An address by Dr. Karl T. Compton, president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will be given on the morning of the twenty-second at the sixty-first commemoration day exercises of the university. On this occasion honorary degrees will be awarded to several distinguished engineers.

On the morning of the twentieth, alumni, officials of the city and state and faculty members from other colleges will hear and discuss papers read by senior professors of the School of Engineering. These discussions will center about current research projects in which the members of the faculty have been actively engaged and concerning which numerous publications have appeared. The subjects will include high voltage insulation, electrical accidents, power development, water purification, gas engineering research and scientific motor vehicle taxation.

At four o'clock, on February 22, Professor Niels Bohr, director of the Institute for Theoretical Physics at the University of Copenhagen, will speak on "The Problem of Causality in Atomic Theory." Professor Bohr, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1922, will be a guest of the winner of the prize in 1925, Professor James Franck, now professor at the Johns Hopkins University. The lecture will be in the A. R. L. Dohme series. The concluding event of the program will be the alumni dinner at 6:30 in the evening. Abel Wolman, a member of the first graduating class, now the chief engineer of the Maryland State Department of Health, will be the principal speaker. His topic will be "The Engineer and Society."

Portions of the public exhibit will be devoted to the main branches of research and industrial engineering. Laboratory technique and facilities as well as instruction methods may be observed by visitors to the show. Many commercial appliances and processes will be brought in for the duration of the anniversary events and students will operate equipment and models reflecting recent discoveries. Several methods and pieces of apparatus developed at the Homewood laboratories will be demonstrated.

Early in the university's history President Daniel C. Gilman indicated his hope that the development of facilities at Johns Hopkins would witness the establishment of a school of engineering. That hope was realized in 1912 when the present dean of the school, Professor J. B. Whitehead, joined with Dr. Carl Clapp Thomas and Dr. Charles J. Tilden to form the department heads of the first faculty. On its twenty-fifth anniversary the school has three departments of civil, electrical and mechanical engineering accredited by the