There has been a general desire to preserve this unique collection as a whole and to house it at the Imperial College, where it could be studied by serious students and seen under suitable conditions by interested members of the public.

"In February last the governing body of the college issued an appeal to old students and friends of the college in the hopes of raising £2,000, the sum asked for the letters, and an additional £500 which is the estimated cost of binding and housing the collection. Before issuing this appeal they consulted the authorities of the British Museum and the Friends of the National Libraries, who are favorable to the scheme. The Friends of the National Libraries issued a supporting appeal to members of their association at the same time. Altogether a sum of £1,200 has so far been collected or promised. Of this, £464 has been received through the efforts of the Friends of the National Libraries, £150 has been granted by the Pilgrim Trust, £200 from one old student of the college, and £50 from Sir Robert Hadfield.

"The governing body and the council of the Friends of the National Libraries are most anxious to secure the additional money necessary soon. Otherwise it is probable that the collection will be broken up and lost to the country. It is possible that some readers of your paper have not yet heard of the appeal and would be willing to help to preserve the collection, which includes among other items of great interest almost the whole of Darwin's correspondence with Huxley, over 400 letters to and from Hooker, in addition to many hundreds of letters from Tyndall, Lyell, Herbert Spencer, Haeckel, Agassiz and many other men of great prominence in Huxley's time. It also includes many of Huxley's original manuscripts and notebooks.

"Contributions should be sent to the Secretary of the Imperial College, Prince Consort Road, South Kensington, S.W.7, or to the Secretary of the Friends of the National Libraries, care of British Museum, W.C.1."

RESEARCH ON METALS

THE rewards of cooperation in research in the field of metals through joint investigation of fundamental problems by physicists, metallurgists and chemists were discussed by leaders in these fields at a meeting held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on January 28 and 29 under the auspices of the institute and the American Institute of Physics.

The meeting emphasized the promising trend toward a most productive type of research in which technical workers bring to problems of fundamental interest the specialized knowledge and methods of their several fields. The very important results of joint research are nowhere more evident than at the institute itself, where many investigations are brought to successful conclusions through interdepartmental cooperation.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss thoroughly recent developments in the physics and chemistry of metals, as well as the opportunities for still greater advances through the combined cooperative effort of all workers whose knowledge may in some way contribute to problems of mutual interest. From a half to one hour each was allowed for the presentation of important papers and ample time was given for discussion, thus permitting an interplay of viewpoints not possible in the usual scientific meeting.

Some of the more general papers presented were: "Research Problems in the Steel Industry," by Dr. E. C. Bain, United States Steel Corporation; "Inclusions in Ferrous Alloys," by Dr. A. B. Kinzel, Union Carbide and Carbon Company; "Flow Phenomena in Heavily Stressed Metals," by Professor P. W. Bridgman, of Harvard University; "Electronic Structures in Metals and Alloys," by Professor J. C. Slater, head of the department of physics of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; "Corrosion," by Dr. J. R. Burns, of the Bell Laboratories; "Elastic Properties of Ferrous Alloys," by Professor A. V. de Forest, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and "Chromium-Nickel-Iron Alloys," discussed by Dr. V. N. Krivobok, of the Allegheny Steel Company.

In another group of papers various techniques and their applicability were presented, while in the third group some especially complex scientific problems met with in ferrous alloys were discussed.

Arrangements for the meeting were in charge of Professor John Wulff, of the institute, who acted as secretary, and Dr. Harry A. Barton, director of the American Institute of Physics.

THE NORTHWEST SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION

THE thirteenth annual meeting of the Northwest Scientific Association was held on December 29 and 30, 1936, at the Davenport Hotel in Spokane, Washington.

President George F. Simmons, of the Montana State University, lectured at the general meetings on "The Mechanisms of Reproductive Periodicity in Mammals" and "A Windjammer Voyage to Treasure Island." Seven section meetings were held as follows: Bacteriology-Public Health, Botany-Zoology, Chemistry-Physics-Mathematics, Education-Psychology, Forestry, Geology-Geography and Social Science.

Officers elected for 1937 were: *President,* C. C. Todd, dean of the College of Letters and Science, State College of Washington, Pullman; *Vice-president,* J. H. Ramskill, professor of forestry, Montana State University, Missoula; *Secretary-Treasurer,* O. W. Freeman, State Normal School, Cheney, Wash.