

DR. THOR ROTHSTEIN, formerly professor of neurology at Rush Medical College, Chicago, died on February 20 at the age of seventy-two years.

RICHARD C. MCGREGOR, the managing editor of *The Philippine Journal of Science*, died on December

30 at the age of sixty-five years. He served for many years as ornithologist of the Bureau of Science and made numerous trips through the Philippines collecting specimens of birds. He wrote a number of articles on birds and bird life. His two-volume monograph and check list of Philippine birds are standard works.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### TOUR OF EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL LABORATORIES UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

A TOUR of European laboratories in England, Germany and France for leaders in industry and banking from all sections of the United States has been arranged under the direction of the Division of Engineering and Industrial Research of the National Research Council, of which Maurice Holland is the director; Dr. Vannevar Bush, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is the chairman, and Howard A. Poillon, of New York, is the vice-chairman.

According to present preliminary plans, the group will sail from New York on May 14 on the *S. S. Champlain*. While in Europe this delegation of American business leaders will visit the scientific research laboratories of private industry representing eighteen major fields, as well as the laboratories of governments, universities and trade associations.

This is the fourth educational tour of research laboratories conducted by the division for American executives. The other three projects, which were participated in by many business leaders, were tours to industrial and university laboratories in the United States. These were held in 1930, 1931 and 1935 under the direction of Mr. Holland.

While preliminary plans for the European tour have been under way for several years, details and the final program will be worked out by an advisory committee composed of industrialists and bankers who were members of the past tours. Invitations for the trip are now being sent to industrialists and bankers who are interested in research.

While in Europe organizations such as the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in England, the Verein Deutscher Ingenieure in Germany, the Sorbonne in France and others will be hosts. Membership in the party will be limited to a hundred in accordance with the request of several of the European engineering and scientific groups.

Members of the executive committee of the Division of Engineering and Industrial Research of the National Research Council are: Carl Breer, V. Bush, F. O. Clements, Galen H. Clevenger, E. S. Fickes, R. C. H. Heck, Frank B. Jewett, Fred Lavis, F. B. Llewellyn and Howard A. Poillon.

### THE NORTH CAROLINA MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

THE annual meeting of the American Chemical Society will be held at the University of North Carolina from April 12 to 16. Programs will be presented for all divisions except Fertilizer Chemistry, the History of Chemistry, Leather and Gelatin Chemistry and Petroleum Chemistry. The preliminary program gives the following details:

*The Division of Agricultural and Food Chemistry* will meet all day Tuesday in joint session with the Divisions of Biological Chemistry and Medicinal Chemistry in a Symposium on the Vitamin B Complex. On Wednesday afternoon, the same divisions will cooperate in a Symposium on Vitamins Other than Those of the B Complex. On Wednesday morning, the Division of Agricultural and Food Chemistry alone will hold a Symposium on Flavors in Foods and Food Products and on Thursday morning a session for the presentation of general papers. The divisional luncheon will be held Thursday noon.

*The Division of Biological Chemistry* joins with the Divisions of Agricultural and Food Chemistry and Medicinal Chemistry in a Tuesday Symposium on the Vitamin B Complex and a Wednesday afternoon program on Vitamins Other than Those of the B Complex. On Wednesday and Thursday mornings divisional papers on other subjects will be presented.

*The Division of Cellulose Chemistry* will have a general symposium on Tuesday covering the present-day knowledge in certain fields of cellulose chemistry; the fields to be covered are not yet defined. General papers will be given in two Wednesday sessions.

*The Division of Chemical Education* will hold three sessions for the presentation of general papers, including an informal colloquium on the teaching of qualitative analysis.

*The Division of Colloid Chemistry* may cooperate with the Division of Cellulose Chemistry in its Tuesday symposium on present-day knowledge in certain fields of cellulose chemistry. On Wednesday two sessions will be held for presentation of general papers.

*The Division of Gas and Fuel Chemistry* will present a general program in two sessions.

*The Division of Industrial Engineering Chemistry* expects to schedule a large number and wide variety of general papers.

*The Division of Medicinal Chemistry* will join with the Divisions of Agricultural and Food Chemistry and Biological Chemistry on Tuesday in a Symposium on the Vitamin B Complex and on Wednesday afternoon in a

program on Vitamins Other than Those of the B Complex. General papers will be presented on Wednesday and Thursday mornings.

*The Microchemical Section* will hold one session for the presentation of general papers.

*The Division of Organic Chemistry* plans a program of miscellaneous papers in three sessions.

*The Division of Paint and Varnish Chemistry* has scheduled two sessions of general papers. A Symposium on Synthetic Plastics, under the chairmanship of Gordon M. Kline, will be held on Wednesday morning and afternoon and Thursday morning.

*The Division of Physical and Inorganic Chemistry* will hold a general Symposium on the Chemistry of Solid Surfaces, a half day of group symposia and probably three other sessions for general papers.

*The Division of Rubber Chemistry* will meet in three sessions for the presentation of miscellaneous papers.

*The Division of Sugar Chemistry* will hold two sessions, at which general papers will be given.

*The Division of Water, Sewage and Sanitation Chemistry* will meet on Tuesday for a program of general papers.

#### AWARDS OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE

Two awards of the American Institute of the City of New York for 1937—the Gold Medal to the Bell Telephone Laboratories, and a fellowship to Watson Davis, director of Science Service, Washington, D. C.—were made at the annual dinner of the institute on February 4.

Robert T. Pollock, president of the institute, presided and presented the awards. President Karl T. Compton, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, spoke on the work of the Bell Telephone Laboratories, and Dr. Frank B. Jewett responded. G. B. Parker, editor-in-chief of the Scripps Howard Newspapers, spoke on the work of Science Service, and Mr. Davis responded.

The gold medal, given annually in recognition of outstanding accomplishment in research, went to the Bell Telephone Laboratories "for research in electrical science which, applied to communication, have promoted understanding, security and commerce among peoples by transmitting human thought instantly throughout the world."

The fellowship in the institute, given for outstanding service in the interpretation of science to laymen, was conferred on Watson Davis, "for interpreting to the people of the nation the rapid progress of science upon which modern civilization depends and for the organized dissemination of research findings as news."

Progressive steps in the perfection of equipment needed for the faithful transmission of speech and music over great distances was demonstrated by the use of four telephone circuits by Dr. Perrine. Two of these, one a modern long distance line, and the other a modern high quality circuit used in hook-ups for radio broadcasting, extended two thousand miles from the

banquet room to Danville, Illinois, and back to a special loud speaker on the platform. Two others were synthetic circuits created to give the effect of the best lines available for transcontinental telephony in 1915 and in 1920, but now no longer used. Music and speech were sent directly to the loud speaker and then through each of these circuits in turn for comparison. The loud speaker itself, weighing some 600 pounds, was a recent development based on four integral units, each amplifying sounds of particular frequencies. Effects of differences in circuits were shown by transmitting sounds of definite pitch as well as voice and music over the various lines.

The Council on Awards of the American Institute consist of: M. L. Crossley (chairman), Calco Chemical Company; Oscar Riddle, Carnegie Institution, Station for Experimental Evolution; W. H. Carrier, Carrier Engineering Corporation; W. D. Coolidge, General Electric Company; Oliver Kamm, Parke, Davis and Company; Ward F. Davidson, Brooklyn Edison Company; L. O. Kunkel, the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research; Clinton J. Davisson, Bell Telephone Laboratories, and Harden F. Taylor, Atlantic Coast Fisheries.

#### AWARD OF THE WILLARD GIBBS MEDAL TO DR. MCCOY

DR. HERBERT NEWBY MCCOY, known for his achievements in radioactivity and in other fields of chemical science, has been awarded the 1937 Willard Gibbs Medal of the Chicago Section of the American Chemical Society. The medal will be presented at a dinner of the Chicago Section to be given on May 21.

Dr. McCoy, who was for sixteen years a member of the faculty of the University of Chicago and who is now vice-president and director of research of the Lindsay Light and Chemical Company, Chicago, was cited as "pioneer in a greater number of fundamental discoveries than any but three or four living American chemists." According to the notice sent us:

Independently of and simultaneously with Robert John Strutt, now Baron Rayleigh, of England, and the late Professor Bertram B. Boltwood, of Yale University, Dr. McCoy was the first to establish experimentally that radium is produced by the spontaneous transmutation of uranium. He prepared the first organic metal, tetramethyl ammonium. He and Dr. William H. Ross, now of the U. S. Bureau of Soils, were the first to recognize clearly that isotopes are chemically inseparable substances. Dr. McCoy determined the first ionization constant of an indicator as a measure of its sensitiveness, and showed how the indicator participates in a reaction. He likewise made the first determination of the secondary ionization constant of a very weak electrolyte.

The Willard Gibbs Medal, founded by William A. Converse in 1911, was named for Josiah Willard Gibbs, professor of mathematical physics at Yale University