

The original sponsors for the laboratory which have again given financial support include the Buhl Foundation, the Carnegie Institute of Technology, the U. S. Steel Corporation and the General Electric Company. Contributions now have been made by twenty organizations that did not originally support the laboratory. The members of the fund-raising committee are also members of the technical committee which arranges the scientific program of the laboratory.

#### SEISMOLOGICAL OBSERVATORY AT WILLIAMS COLLEGE

A SEISMOGRAPH has recently been placed in operation at Williams College. The installation is a gift of Mr. and Mrs. John S. Palmer, 2nd, of Providence, R. I., in memory of their son, Julius Palmer, who, with two of his classmates and Professor Herdman F. Cleland, was lost in the sinking of the steamship *Mohawk* on January 24, 1935.

The station has been placed in the sub-basement of the geological museum at Lat.  $42^{\circ} 42.85' N.$ , Long.  $73^{\circ} 12.66' W.$ , elevation 219 meters, and rests on solid Cambrian dolomite a few inches below the floor level. The instruments consist of a Benioff vertical-component seismometer connected with long and short period

Miller galvanometers. Time control is obtained from a Seth Thomas regulator clock, registering minute and hour marks on the records and checked daily by U. S. Naval Observatory time signals. The separate rooms for seismometer, recording units, photographic work and radio time control are all constructed of hollow tile and effectively insulate the equipment from the remainder of the building. Very little interference by vibrations from street traffic, trains or disturbances originating in the building is evident on the records.

Dr. N. H. Heck, president of the Seismological Society of America and chief of the Section of Terrestrial Magnetism and Seismology of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, delivered a brief address at the dedication of the observatory on February 22, outlining the several contributions which may be expected from an installation of this type. Arrangements have been made to cooperate with Science Service and the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey in the study of teleseismic activity, while a study of local earthquakes will be made in cooperation with the other Benioff-equipped stations of New England located at Harvard, Weston and Burlington.

ELWYN L. PERRY

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE French decoration of Commander of the Legion of Honor was on March 16 conferred on Dr. Robert A. Millikan, of the California Institute of Technology, for his work "in the fields of science and international relations." M. Pascal Bonetti, delegate of the French Ministry of Public Instruction, traveled to the United States especially to bring the award. M. Jean Viala, French consul at Los Angeles, made the presentation.

DR. NIELS BOHR, Hitchcock lecturer at the University of California, was awarded the degree of LL.D. at the Charter Day exercises of the university on March 23. In conferring the degree, President Robert G. Sproul said: "Clear and penetrating thinker concerning the most abstruse problems of the physical world; herald of the concept which is the basis of modern study of the structure of matter; specialist endowed with the highest form of scientific imagination; blessed and blessing with kindness and true humanity."

It is announced by the senate of the University of Edinburgh that an honorary degree will be conferred by the university on Dr. L. H. Baekeland, honorary professor of chemical engineering at Columbia University.

A COMMITTEE representing the departments of philosophy of Amherst College, the University of Minne-

sota and Columbia University honored Dr. Frederick J. E. Woodbridge, Johnsonian professor of philosophy at Columbia University, on the anniversary of his seventieth birthday. The ceremony was held in the Harkness Pavilion of the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, where he is convalescing after an operation. The committee presented to Dr. Woodbridge a volume of his own essays and addresses collected by his former students and associates and published in recognition of the anniversary.

THE New York University College of Engineering will dedicate a new building and power plant in honor of Dr. Collins P. Bliss, dean emeritus, on April 3 at 11:30 A. M. Dr. Bliss retired as administrative head of the college last July after serving for forty years as a member of the faculty. He was succeeded by Dean Thorndike Saville. Dr. W. R. Gregg, chief of the U. S. Weather Bureau; Arthur S. Tuttle, New York state director of the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works and project engineer of the PWA Queens Midtown Tunnel, who is chairman of the Committee on Engineering of the New York University Council; Dr. Frank B. Jewett, president of the Bell Telephone Laboratories, and Dr. Harvey N. Davis, president of the Stevens Institute of Technology, are among the speakers who will participate in the ceremonies.