Right Ascension. This comet then had a tail of about one degree in length and it was traveling east and north about one third of a degree daily. It is estimated that this new comet (the first to be announced by URSI radio) will be closest to the sun and earth on June 22, 1937, at which date it is believed it will have attained the eighth or seventh magnitude, still too faint for the unaided eye but visible through a small telescope. Through the URSI announcement this new comet will probably have been under observation in many parts of the world and its discovery just after W1XAL opened the Ursigram broadcasts is a good augury.

The W1XAL URSI-broadcasts are emitted every day on a frequency of 11.79 Mc/sec. (wave-length 25.4 m) at 21:55–22:00 GCT, or 16:55–17:00 Eastern Standard Time (EST). The weekly URSI summary of cosmic events is being added every Monday, immediately after the daily URSI broadcast—*i.e.*, at 22:00 GCT so that, although the regular daily broadcast lasts only five minutes, the weekly broadcast on Monday may last twenty minutes or more.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

PRINCIPAL ADDRESSES AT THE DENVER MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

ON Wednesday evening, June 23, the Maiben lecture of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will be delivered in Denver, Colorado, by Professor Nevil V. Sidgwick, F.R.S., of Lincoln College, Oxford, England. The association is particularly fortunate in securing this distinguished British scientist for one of its principal addresses. Dr. Sidgwick is not only eminent as a chemist but has rare personal qualities and an extensive acquaintance with America and American science. An American chemist, referring to Dr. Sidgwick, recently wrote:

> He has frequently been in the United States, in fact, has been fond of spending his holidays in the Rocky Mountains. He attended the Pittsburgh meeting of the American Chemical Society last September and I believe the Tercentenary at Harvard University as well.
>
> He is a kindly, lively and lovable gentleman who has made many friends among the chemists of the United States. . . . He has reached the apex of his achievements during the past ten years. . . .
>
> Dr. Sidgwick was the non-resident lecturer in chemistry at Cornell University in 1931 and in May of that year delivered the Edgar Fahs Smith birthday address in the Harrison Laboratory of the University of Pennsylvania, his subject at that time being "Atomic Cohesion," . . . .

It is interesting that Dr. Sidgwick "has been fond of spending his holidays in the Rocky Mountains," for the plans for the Denver meeting provide for a very attractive series of excursions into the magnificent Colorado mountains, the lower slopes of which in June are covered with flowers and the tops of which are white with snow.

On Tuesday evening, June 22, Dr. Herbert M. Evans, professor of biology and director of the Institute of Experimental Biology of the University of California, will deliver his address as retiring president of the Pacific Division of the association. The title of his address is, "The Development of Our Knowledge of Anterior Pituitary Function."

Dr. Evans was educated at the University of California, the Johns Hopkins University and Freiburg University, and he has been a member of the faculty of the Johns Hopkins University, as well as of the University of California. He has published many scientific papers and has been honored by membership in many scientific societies, including the National Academy of Sciences.

On Thursday evening, June 24, Dr. A. E. Douglass, professor of astronomy and director of the Steward Observatory of the University of Arizona, will deliver the John Wesley Powell lecture of the Southwestern Division of the association. The subject of his address is "Tree-rings and Chronology."

Dr. Douglass was educated at Trinity College, Connecticut, and at Harvard University. In addition to his contributions to astronomy, he has been a leader in extending chronology, particularly as it pertains to climatic variations, backward over long periods of time by studies of tree-rings. By this method, he has thrown much light on the climatic conditions surrounding prehistoric Indians of the Southwest.

It will be clear from these brief statements respecting the principal evening lectures at the Denver meeting that the association will present an unusually varied and interesting program, ranging from the fundamentals of chemistry to the remarkable functions of the anterior part of the pituitary gland, and to chronology as revealed by tree-rings. Together the lectures touch on an extraordinarily wide range of rapidly developing science.

F. R. MOULTON,
Permanent Secretary

THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

AT the North Carolina meeting of the American Chemical Society, President Edward R. Weidlein presented the following statement prepared by Dr. Charles

L. Parsons, secretary and business manager of the society:

The prosperity of the American Chemical Society and its usefulness to its members and to the country continues on an accelerating curve. The membership of the society is now slightly above 20,000, its goal as set for the end of the present year. Two thousand two hundred and eight new members have been added to the society from January 1 to date, making the total membership of the society 20,007. In spite of the increased number, 20 less members have resigned in 1937 to date than in the same period of 1936. Also the unpaid membership is 66 less than it was in the corresponding period of last year. Subscriptions to all the society's journals have notably increased, especially to *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*. In the first three months of 1936 there had been an increase in subscribers to the industrial edition of *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* of 942; in the first three months of 1937, there was an increase of 1,624 subscribers. The analytical edition had almost the same increases, but the news edition naturally increased more extensively, as it goes to all $9.00 paid members, whether they voluntarily otherwise subscribe or not. The subscriptions to the news edition as of April 1 was 21,617. There has been a good increase of advertising receipts, and an average increase of about 10 per cent. in the society's normal receipts from membership dues, subscriptions, sales of back numbers and miscellaneous.

The expenses, however, have been increasing out of proportion with the increase in membership, owing to the social security taxes and increased cost of paper and labor. New contracts have had to be signed covering these costs, and it would appear that increased costs of taxes, paper and labor have only begun. Owing to the increased membership, increased facilities of files, typewriters, safe and other equipment have become necessary, but it appears certain that the American Chemical Society again in 1937 will surely balance its budget. This is partly due to the fact that nearly a year's supply of paper was bought in advance, both for the society's normal publications and for the Third Decennial Index, and is in storage in Easton.

It is quite evident that in 1938 the society will have a larger percentage increase in its costs than it has to-day, or will have in 1937, owing to the advanced contracts, of which we have had immediate benefit.

The secretary is pleased to report to the directors that he has received contributions from the industry to the Third Decennial Index to date of $115,840 partly paid in advance. The society is bound by the proposition sent to the industry to offer to return to it any excess over $100,000, and this will shortly be done. A list of contributors, with amounts of those giving $300 or more, will soon be published in the news edition.

SYMPOSIUM ON THEORETICAL PHYSICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

THE Symposium on Theoretical Physics at the University of Michigan, to be held between June 28 and August 20, will be devoted primarily to nuclear physics. To date the following lectures have been arranged:

Professor Enrico Fermi, Royal University of Rome: "Theory of Beta Disintegration"; "Neutrino Theory of Light." June 28 to July 17.

Professor C. E. Uhlenbeck, University of Utrecht: "Recent Problems in Statistical Mechanics with Applications to Nuclear Structure." Throughout the session.

Professor James Franck, the Johns Hopkins University: "The Physical Background of Photochemistry in Solutions with Application to Photosynthesis." During week of July 19.

Professor L. H. Thomas, the Ohio State University: "Numerical Solution of Wave Equations"; "The Normal State of the Nucleus of H^3"; "Collisions of Neutrons with Deutrons." July 23, 30 and August 6.

Professor Kasimir Fajans, University of Michigan: "Chemical Forces and Atomic Structure." Three weeks, beginning on July 26.

Dr. F. N. D. Kurie, University of California: "Beta and Gamma Radiation." June 28 to July 17.

The fifty-inch cyclotron and a million-volt high potential equipment which have been in active operation during the past year will be available for research during the summer. Those interested in this work should write early for particulars. In addition, the department offers numerous graduate courses and also facilities for research in many lines of theoretical and experimental physics. Holders of doctor's degrees may attend all sessions as guests of the university.

THE FINNEY-HOWELL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

A FOUNDATION for the study of cancer is provided for in the will of the late Dr. George Walker, head of the Out-patient Surgical Department of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, who died from cancer on March 31.

The foundation is called the Finney-Howell Research Foundation, in honor of Dr. J. M. T. Finney, emeritus professor of surgery at the Johns Hopkins University, and Dr. William H. Howell, emeritus professor of physiology, both of whom are placed on the board of the foundation under the terms of the will.

The primary object of the foundation is to provide a series of fellowships, each with an annual stipend of $2,000, for the study of cancer. Special grants may be made to support the work being done by the fellows. It will not have a laboratory or institute of its own. The money is to be spent entirely in supporting the work done by the fellows.

The principal must be expended within ten years. The fellowships will be annual appointments, but may be renewed for a period of three years. They are not limited to this country, but can be awarded to workers in institutions in any part of the world. It is stated that the available fund at the disposal of the founda-