

Since the regions of space to the study of which this large equipment is dedicated are approximately as remote from our world of ordinary dimensions in the direction of minuteness as are the farthest spiral nebulae in the direction of greatness, and since these small regions to a large extent are equally inaccessible as regards individual selection or detailed examination, the novel use of the word "observatory" may be more appropriate than perhaps appears at first sight.

A similar equipment is also under construction at the Westinghouse Research Laboratories in Pittsburgh under the supervision of Dr. William H. Wells, formerly (1933-1934) associated with the staff of the Carnegie Laboratory.—*Correspondent*.

### THE SCIENTIFIC EXHIBIT OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

THE Scientific Exhibit at the Atlantic City session of the American Medical Association, according to the *Journal* of the association, was characterized by the high character of exhibits presented. There were 254 exhibits in all, of which 219 were presented by individual exhibitors; twenty-five by government and national organizations; five by councils and bureaus from the American Medical Association headquarters, and two special exhibits subsidized by the Board of Trustees.

The special exhibit on anesthesia was presented under the auspices of a committee composed of D. Chester Brown, chairman, Danbury, Conn.; Frank H. Lahey, Boston, and Paul Nicholas Leech, Chicago, assisted by members of the Associated Anesthetists of the United States and Canada, the American Society of Anesthetists and the American Society of Regional Anesthesia. In addition to continuous demonstrations by a competent corps of demonstrators, there were talks and motion pictures throughout the week in an area adjoining the exhibits. A pamphlet describing the exhibit was distributed.

The special exhibit on fractures was presented under the auspices of a committee composed of Kellogg Speed, chairman, Chicago; Frank D. Dickson, Kansas City, Mo., and Walter Estell Lee, Philadelphia, assisted by an advisory committee composed of Isidore Cohn, New Orleans; H. Earle Conwell, Birmingham, Ala.; Frederic J. Cotton, Boston; Richard B. Dillehunt, Portland, Ore.; Eldridge L. Eliason, Philadelphia; Leo Eloesser, San Francisco; George W. Hawley, Bridgeport, Conn.; Melvin S. Henderson, Rochester, Minn.; James M. Hitzrot, New York; William L. Keller, Washington, D. C.; Roy D. McClure, Detroit; Frank R. Ober, Boston; Dallas B. Phemister, Chicago, and J. Spencer Speed, Memphis, Tenn. More than fifty physicians from various parts of the country assisted with the demonstrations. Acknowledgment is made to the Surgeon General of the United States Army,

Major A. S. Dabney, Major W. W. McCaw, soldiers from the Walter Reed Hospital, Dr. James H. Mason, III, of Atlantic City, and Mrs. Mildred Jones and Miss Flora Keats, nurses from the Atlantic City Hospital, for the very efficient service which they rendered in connection with the fracture exhibit. Appreciation is also expressed to the management of the Atlantic City Hospital for its cooperation.

Other features of the Atlantic City session included a symposium on pneumonia by the Section on the Practice of Medicine, a symposium on heart disease composed of twenty-five exhibits presented in cooperation with the American Heart Association, and motion picture programs by the Section on Obstetrics, Gynecology and Abdominal Surgery, by the Section on Ophthalmology and by the Section on Orthopedic Surgery, shown in spaces adjoining the exhibits of those sections.

An endeavor was made to correlate the exhibits with papers read before the various sections of the Scientific Assembly, with the result that fifty papers were accompanied by material in the Scientific Exhibit.

### THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Two hundred and thirty-one members and guests attended the twenty-seventh National Conference on Weights and Measures which was held in Washington from June 1 to 4. According to the account of the meeting given in the *Technical Bulletin* of the National Bureau of Standards, delegates from thirty-one states and the District of Columbia were present as well as representatives of manufacturers of weighing and measuring appliances and others interested in weights and measures.

The sessions were opened with an address by Dr. Lyman J. Briggs, president of the conference, who presented a proposal for legislation to fix the standards of weights and measures of the United States. The Secretary of Commerce, the Honorable Daniel C. Roper, also addressed the conference on June 3, his subject being "Sustaining Standards through Cooperation." In all thirteen papers were presented and discussed, while many other subjects not specifically listed on the program received attention at the general session on the morning of June 2.

Perhaps the most important actions taken were the endorsement of the proposed bill to fix the standards of weight and measure for the United States, the endorsement of a bill to standardize the sizes of cans for food products and the amendment of certain codes of specifications and tolerances for commercial weighing and measuring apparatus, particularly the tolerances for vehicle scales.

An exhibition of recent developments in weighing and measuring apparatus was arranged in connection