

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

with the meetings, and the bureau was able to demonstrate the use of its new vehicular scale-testing unit by a complete test of a 40,000-pound motor-truck scale at the United States Naval Academy, in Annapolis. Buses were provided to carry the members to and from the academy. A tour of the bureau's laboratories was also arranged, featuring particularly the work of the Weights and Measures Division.

At the last session, on June 4, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: *President*, Dr. Lyman J. Briggs, director, National Bureau of Standards; *Vice-presidents*, W. S. Bussey, of Texas; C. J. P. Cullen, of Pennsylvania; J. J. Levitt, of Illinois, and R. E. Meek, of Indiana; *Secretary*, F. S. Holbrook, National Bureau of Standards; *Treasurer*, Geo. F. Austin, Jr., of Detroit, Mich.

WOODS HOLE CONFERENCE ON THE PROBLEM OF AGING

THE main function of the Union of American Biological Societies is the promotion of *Biological Abstracts*. The union is interested, however, in any activity which will tend to focus otherwise divergent biological specialties on a specific problem of fundamental importance. The problem of aging belongs in this category. Its investigation is timely; because, with improved living conditions and advances in the medical sciences, people on the average live longer, so that the services of proportionally more elderly individuals are available. Over the same period unemployment has increased, which results in a tendency

to enforced earlier retirement or failure to employ men and women past maturity to give place to younger groups. Two factors therefore operate in the same direction to accentuate the social problem of the place of the aged as useful members of the community. Though they may not be 100 per cent. effective, the 80 or 50 per cent. or whatever it may be should not be entirely lost. The kind of service to be performed must also be considered. Aging is at the present time our greatest and most neglected human problem. Scientific data on its biological and medical aspects are urgently needed. Consequently, the union sponsored a conference on the problem viewed from these angles held at the Cape Codder Hotel, Woods Hole, Mass., on June 25 and 26. The Divisions of Medical Sciences, Biology and Agriculture and Anthropology and Psychology of the National Research Council cooperated. The expense of the conference was defrayed by a grant from the Josiah Macy, Jr., Foundation. Those attending the conference were: A. J. Carlson, Alfred E. Cohn, E. V. Cowdry, William Crocker, Louis I. Dublin, E. T. Engle, Lawrence K. Frank, Jonas S. Friedenwald, Alfred Friedlander, W. S. Hunter, H. S. Jennings, E. B. Krumbhaar, C. M. McCay, Wm. deB. MacNider, E. D. Merrill, Walter R. Miles, Jean Oliver, F. Fremont-Smith, T. Wingate Todd and Clark Wissler. They include representatives of the union, the council, the foundation, contributors to a book on aging being prepared by the foundation and other interested persons.

E. V. COWDRY

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. MARSTON T. BOGERT, professor of organic chemistry at Columbia University, has been elected an honorary fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Other fellows elected included: Professor C. U. Ariëns Kappers, professor of comparative neurology in the University of Amsterdam and director of the Central Institute of Brain Research, and Professor Max Planck, emeritus professor of theoretical physics and director of the Institute for Theoretical Physics in the University of Berlin.

At the commencement exercises of the University of Michigan, the degree of doctor of engineering was conferred on Dean R. L. Sackett, of the School of Engineering of the Pennsylvania State College, who resigned at the close of the college year and was made dean emeritus. The degree was also conferred on Professor Henry E. Riggs, honorary chairman of the department of civil engineering of the University of Michigan.

At the recent centennial celebration of Mount Holyoke College, the degree of doctor of science was con-

ferred on Dr. Margaret Tyler, associate clinical professor at the Yale Medical School; on Dr. Anna Pell Wheeler, chairman of the department of mathematics of Bryn Mawr College, and on Dr. Margaret C. Ferguson, research professor of botany at Wellesley College.

At the fourth centenary celebration of the University of Lausanne, the degree of doctor of medicine (*in absentia*) was conferred on Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins, Sir William Dunn professor of biochemistry at the University of Cambridge, and the degree of doctor of pharmacy was conferred on Dr. G. Barger, professor of chemistry in relation to medicine at the University of Edinburgh.

The British Medical Journal reports that at the celebration of the hundredth anniversary of the founding of the University of Athens, honorary doctorates were conferred on: Sir Charles Sherrington, Oxford; Professors O. Naegeli, Zurich; von Koranyi, Budapest; L. Aschoff, Freiburg; Augustus Bier, Berlin; R. Krehl, Heidelberg; Hymans van den Bergh, Utrecht; and J. Wagner von Jauregg, Vienna.