

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.