

Shaffer, whose terms expire on December 31, 1937.

Dr. Gustavus J. Esselen, of Boston, was reelected to the society's council committee on policy for a period of three years.

The ninety-fifth meeting of the American Chemical Society will be held in Dallas, Texas, from April 18 to 21, 1938. The ninety-sixth meeting is scheduled for Milwaukee, Wis., in the fall of 1938.

The membership of the society, the largest professional organization of its kind in the world, now exceeds 20,000, it was announced by Secretary Charles L. Parsons.

AWARD OF THE NICHOLS MEDAL TO DR. LEVENE

THE William H. Nichols Medal of the New York Section of the American Chemical Society has been awarded for 1938 to Dr. Phoebus Aaron Theodore Levene, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research.

Founded in 1902 to "stimulate original research in chemistry," the honor goes to Dr. Levene "for his study of the configurational relationships of the simpler optically active organic compounds." Presentation of the medal will take place at a meeting of the New York Section on March 11, 1938.

Dr. Levene's researches in the field of biochemistry have extended over a period of forty years. From a long series of early experiments dealing principally with nucleic acids and proteins, he gradually transferred his major interest to the carbohydrates and related compounds.

According to the official statement, "The award is based in particular upon his contributions of recent years, wherein he has effectively unravelled major problems in the difficult subject of configurational

relationships in several series of optically active compounds. One of the important results of this work has been the announcement of a theory of the mechanism of Walden inversions from the modern viewpoint."

Dr. Levene is the author of papers on proteins, nucleins, carbohydrates, lipoids, problems of stereochemistry and of two monographs, "Hexosamines and Mucoproteins" and "Nucleic Acids." In 1931 he was awarded the Willard Gibbs Medal of the Chicago Section of the American Chemical Society as "the outstanding American worker in the application of organic chemistry to biological problems."

Dr. Levene was born in Russia on February 25, 1869. He attended the classical gymnasium of St. Petersburg, and received the degree of doctor of medicine from the Imperial Military Academy in 1891. While a student he participated in the work of Professor A. Dianin on the condensation of phenols with aldehydes and with ketones. Coming to America in 1893, he first practiced medicine, and then entered the Columbia University School of Mines as a special student, pursuing at the same time research in biological chemistry in the laboratory of Professor J. J. Curtis at the Medical School. Later he worked with E. Drechsel in Berne, with A. Kossel in Marburg, with Professor Hofer in Munich and with E. Fischer in Berlin. From 1896 to 1905 he was associate in chemistry in the New York State Pathological Institute. During this period he was chemist for two years at the Saranac Laboratory for the Study of Tuberculosis, Saranac Lake, N. Y. In 1905-06 he was Herter lecturer in pathological chemistry at New York University. Since 1905 he has been at the Rockefeller Institute, becoming a member in 1907.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

AN Associated Press dispatch from Stockholm under date of November 11 announces that the Nobel prize in physics is shared by Dr. Clinton Joseph Davison, physicist on the staff of the Bell Telephone Laboratories, New York City, and Professor George Paget Thomson, professor of physics in the Imperial College of Science, London, son of Sir Joseph Thomson, in recognition of their work on electronic interference. Professor Walter N. Haworth, head of the department of physics at the University of Birmingham, and Dr. Paul Karrer, professor of chemistry at the University of Zurich, share the prize in chemistry for research on carbohydrates and vitamins.

DR. CHARLES G. ABBOT, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, has been awarded a gold distinguished service medal of the Great Lakes Exposition at Cleveland, Ohio, for his solar cooker.

THE Order of Merit of Carlos Finlay has been conferred by the Cuban government on the following members of the faculty of Cornell University Medical College in recognition of their medical and public health services to Cuba: Dr. Henricus J. Stander, professor of obstetrics and gynecology; Dr. Wilson G. Smillie, professor of public health and preventive medicine; Dr. Foster Kennedy, professor of clinical neurology; Dr. Morton C. Kahn, associate professor of public health and preventive medicine, and Dr. Edgar Mayer, assistant professor of clinical medicine.

DR. MORRIS EDWARD DAVIS, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, and Dr. Arthur K. Koff, formerly instructor in obstetrics and gynecology in the Division of Biological Sciences of the University of Chicago, have been awarded the annual prize of \$100 by the Central Association of Obstetricians and