OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

DR. SAMUEL COLVILLE LIND, dean of the Institute of Technology of the University of Minnesota, has been elected president of the American Chemical Society for 1940. Dr. Lind will take office as president-elect on January 1, 1939, at which time Professor Charles A. Kraus, of Brown University, becomes president, succeeding Dean Frank C. Whitmore, of Pennsylvania State College.

The new president-elect was chosen by the council from four nominees receiving the largest number of votes in a national poll by mail by more than 22,000 members of the society. The council includes national officers, directors, editors of publications, past presidents, chairmen of professional divisions and councilors of the eighty-five local sections.

Dr. Lind, who has been editor of the *Journal of Physical Chemistry* since 1933, has been a leader of chemical research in the field of radioactivity, radium extraction and measurement, influence of radiation on chemical action, kinetics and chemical reactions, photochemistry and chemical effects in electrical discharge. He originated the ionization theory of the chemical effects of radium rays and invented the Lind interchangeable electroscope of radium measurements.

He taught at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1902–03 and at the University of Michigan from 1905 to 1915. He has been associated with the United States Bureau of Mines since 1913, first as chemist in radioactivity and since 1918 as physical chemist. He was chief chemist of the bureau from 1923 to 1925 and associate director of the Fixed Nitrogen Research Laboratory, Washington, D. C., in 1925–26. Before becoming dean of the Institute of Technology in 1935, he was director of its School of Chemistry for nine years.

Three directors and four councilors-at-large have been elected as follows:

Directors

Dr. E. R. Weidlein, director of the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research, Pittsburgh, and past president of the society, elected from the third district, comprising Pennsylvania, Delaware and Ohio.

Thomas Midgley, Jr., of Worthington, Ohio, vice-president of the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation, reelected director-at-large.

Professor Arthur J. Hill, chairman of the department of chemistry of Yale University, reelected from the first district, including Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Canada.

Councilors-at-large

Dr. George D. Beal, assistant director of the Mellon Institute, Pittsburgh.

Dr. Henry Gilman, professor of organic chemistry at the Iowa State College.

Dr. Harry N. Holmes, head of the department of chemistry of Oberlin College.

Professor Harold C. Urey, professor of chemistry at Columbia University.

THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

AT the regular monthly meeting of the American Geographical Society held in the auditorium of the American Museum of Natural History, Roland L. Redmond, president of the society, announced that Dr. John Kirtland Wright had been appointed director of the society. His appointment is effective immediately.

Dr. Wright graduated from Harvard College in 1913 and received the Ph.D. degree in 1922. He has been on the staff of the American Geographical Society since 1920, as librarian from 1920 to 1937 and since then as research editor. His main interests lie in the fields of historical geography, population studies and geographical bibliography, on which subjects he has published books and periodical articles. He has also edited several of the publications of the society, notably "New England's Prospect: 1933" and Dr. C. O. Paullin's monumental "Atlas of the Historical Geography of the United States," which was published jointly with the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

Founded in 1852, the American Geographical Society is the oldest geographical society in the United States and the leading research institution of its kind. In 1915, with a reorganization of the staff, Dr. Isaiah Bowman was appointed as the first director, a position that he held until 1935, when he assumed the presidency of the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. During the twenty years of Dr. Bowman's directorship the activities of the society were greatly enlarged. Many projects of research were undertaken, among them the compilation and publication of a great map of Latin America in 107 sheets (now nearing completion), as well as studies of the polar regions and of the parts of the world that are still open to pioneer settlement. Some fifty authoritative books dealing with nearly all phases of geography have been issued by the society since 1915, and the society on several occasions has been called into consultation by the Government.

Included on its council are: Isaiah Bowman, Charles R. Crane, F. Trubee Davison, Lincoln Ellsworth, John H. Finley, William Hale Harkness, H. Stuart Hotchkiss, Archer M. Huntington, Arthur Curtiss James, Wesley C. Mitchell, Frank L. Polk, William A. Rockefeller, Carl C. Shippee.

AWARD OF THE EDISON MEDAL OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

DR. DUGALD C. JACKSON, professor emeritus of electrical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been awarded the 1938 Edison Medal

of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers "for outstanding and inspiring leadership in engineering education and in the fields of generation and distribution of electric power." The presentation will be made on the evening of January 25, during the annual winter convention of the institute, which will be held in the Engineering Societies Building, New York.

Dr. Jackson's early engineering experience was gained as vice-president and engineer from 1887 to 1889, for the Western Engineering Company at Lincoln, Nebr. He was assistant chief engineer with the Sprague Electric Railway and Motor Company, New York City, from 1889 to 1891, and later was chief engineer for the central district of the Edison General Electric Company. In 1891, he formed a consulting engineering firm with his brother, W. B. Jackson, and also became professor of electrical engineering at the University of Wisconsin. In 1907 he was appointed professor and head of the department of electrical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, becoming professor emeritus in 1935. He continued as senior partner of the consulting engineering firm of Jackson and Moreland, organized in 1919, until 1930.

Dr. Jackson joined the American Institute of Electrical Engineers in 1887. He has been member and chairman of many institute committees, and was vice-president, 1897–99, and president, 1910–11. He has been president of the Boston Society of Civil Engineers and of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education and is president of the American Institute of Consulting Engineers. He is president of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and was a member of the National Research Council from 1928 to 1936. He has published five books on electrical engineering and approximately 150 articles related to engineering projects and engineering education. Dr. Jackson served in France as lieutenant-colonel of engineers during the latter part of the World War, and is Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor.

The Edison Medal, founded by associates and friends of Thomas A. Edison to perpetuate his memory, is awarded annually for "meritorious achievement in electrical science, electrical engineering or the electrical arts" by a committee of twenty-four of the leading members of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. Previous recipients have been Elihu Thomson, Frank J. Sprague, George Westinghouse, William Stanley, Charles F. Brush, Alexander Graham Bell, Nikola Tesla, John J. Carty, Benjamin G. Lamme, W. L. R. Emmet, Michael I. Pupin, Cumings C. Chesney, Robert A. Millikan, John W. Lieb, John White Howell, Harris J. Ryan, William D. Coolidge, Frank B. Jewett, Charles F. Scott, Frank Conrad, Edwin W. Rice, Jr., Bancroft Gherardi, A. E. Kennelly, Willis R. Whitney, Lewis B. Stillwell, Alex Dow and Gano Dunn.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY INTRODUCING THE PILGRIM TRUST LECTURER

AT a meeting of the Royal Society on December 8 held at the Royal Institution, the president of the Royal Society, Sir William Bragg, delivered the following speech preparatory to the Pilgrim Trust Lecture by Dr. Irving Langmuir. He spoke as follows:

The principal business of this afternoon has a significance which is at once important, interesting and welcome. We are to hear an address from one of the greatest scientists of the United States, honored throughout the world. In introducing him to you I must tell you in a few words why he has come, and what his coming means to us.

Rather more than a year ago, Professor L. J. Henderson, of Harvard University, foreign secretary to the National Academy of Sciences of Washington, was a visitor to this country and had many meetings with fellows of our (Royal) society. At one of these meetings the suggestion was made that there would be valuable results if direct cooperation could be established between the National Academy and our society. It was thought that a first step in this direction would be made if lecturers could be interchanged between the two bodies and the countries which they represented. The Pilgrim Trust was approached, and a most generous response was made. The trust promised to give £250 guineas a year for six years in order that a good trial might be made of a suitable scheme. Finally, it was proposed that in alternate years an American scientist should be invited to England by our society, and a British scientist invited to America by the academy. The two societies gladly endorsed the proposal in October of last year. The presence of Dr. Irving Langmuir, invited by our society, is the first realization of the scheme.

I should explain for the benefit of some who may not be familiar with the scientific institutions of America that the National Academy occupies a foremost place in the States. It corresponds in many ways with our society. Our society is proud to be associated with an institution of such high standing; our relations with it have always been most friendly, and we are glad indeed that they are to be strengthened still further by this new bond between us.

Dr. Irving Langmuir was chosen without any hesitation as the man whom we would most like to see in Britain as our first Pilgrim Trust lecturer. He has already done famous things both in pure science and its applications. No doubt there are many who know what he has done for the great illumination problems. The modern electric lamp, with its filling of gas, is largely his creation, and the electron discharge has been developed by him so as to become one of the useful tools of industry. His work on the nature, properties and handling of molecular films spread on the surfaces of liquids is admired and copied in every laboratory of distinction. He has new work on