

**THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF THE CITY
OF NEW YORK AND THE AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCE-
MENT OF SCIENCE**

AFFILIATION of the American Institute of the City of New York was voted by the council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Richmond on December 27. This affiliation is on the same basis as the association's affiliated state academies. The American Institute was chartered in 1828 "for the purpose of encouraging and promoting domestic industry in New York State and in the United States."

At a subsequent meeting of the Association of State Academies, Professor E. C. L. Miller, of the Virginia Academy of Science, was authorized to appoint a committee to work with representatives of the American Institute in arranging plans whereby the American Institute may cooperate with the state academies and their junior academies in activities of mutual interest.

The American Institute conducts separate programs for each of its three groups of members. For adults it presents, popular demonstration meetings, round-table discussions, symposia, forums and dinners. Annually, since 1932, it awards its gold medal to an individual or corporation in order to "suitably recognize meritorious achievements in science, industry, engineering or architecture that have a broad incidence on human welfare." The gold medal for 1938 will be awarded to the Sperry Gyroscope Company for outstanding achievement in the design and manufacture of instruments for navigation resulting in greater safety both in the air and on the sea.

Each year, the American Institute gives one or two fellowships to "persons who have done outstanding work in the interpretation of scientific, engineering or industrial achievement which promotes effectively the knowledge and general understanding of these arts and sciences." For 1938, the fellowships are awarded to Dr. Ross A. Baker, professor of chemistry at the College of the City of New York, for the promotion of better teaching and evidence of deep appreciation of the problems of students in colleges, and to James T. Grady, director of the department of public information of Columbia University, for his pioneer work in promoting accuracy of science reporting through the press.

Separately organized within the American Institute are its associate members between 18 and 25 years of age. They have their own officers and committees, and they plan their own programs and social events. Most of them are college students or graduates already specializing in some branch of science. They take part in round-table discussions, field trips, member demonstrations and general meetings.

One of the most vital parts of the work of the Amer-

ican Institute is its science and engineering clubs. As described in the issue of *SCIENCE* for December 2, 1938, these are a recent expansion of the program it has fostered in New York City and vicinity for eleven years. New funds have become available for the work of establishing and aiding science clubs elsewhere, for assisting in organizing workshop courses, science congresses, photographic exhibits and science fairs. The official publication of the American Institute Science Clubs is the *Science Observer*, a monthly newspaper carrying columns devoted to youth research projects, up-to-date news in science and club activities.

The American Institute, now 111 years old, conducted the first New York County Fair in the Masonic Hall in New York City on October 24, 1828, to encourage manufacturers and inventors in the United States, and to bring the public's attention to the varieties and excellence of goods made in America. At its subsequent county fairs, which are still held each year as the school science and engineering fair, the American Institute introduced to the public the Morse telegraph, the Hoe press, the Mason and Hamlin organ, the McCormick reaper and the Singer sewing machine.

Congressman James Tallmadge (1778-1853) was one of the founders of the institute and was its president from 1831 to 1850. He also served as Lieutenant-Governor of New York State in 1825 and helped to found New York University. He was a staunch supporter of the Whig doctrine of the protection of growing American industry. Other distinguished officers and members famous in American history were Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, Cornelius Vanderbilt and Peter Cooper. Horace Greeley was its president from 1866 to 1871. In its early days the membership of the American Institute was from ten to fifty. It held its early meetings in Tammany Hall and later in Broad Way House. Its fairs were at one time held in Castle Gardens, now the New York City Aquarium.

**AWARDS OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
CIVIL ENGINEERS**

At the eighty-sixth annual meeting of the American Society of Civil Engineers in New York City the Hoover Medal was presented to John Frank Stevens, formerly chief engineer of the Panama Canal. The medal was received for Mr. Stevens by his son, Donald F. Stevens, of Baltimore, a past president and honorary member of the society, superintendent of transportation of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Gano Dunn, past-president of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, made the presentation, and Ralph Budd, president of the Burlington and Quincy Railroad, spoke of Mr. Stevens's achievements.

Other medals and prizes were awarded as follows: The Norman Medal to Professor Hunter Rouse, of the California Institute of Technology; the James R.