THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK AND THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT 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 understandng 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 American 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.

Croes Medal to E. C. Hartman, of the Aluminum Research Laboratories of New Kensington, Pa.; the James Laurie Prize to Leon S. Moisseiff, who designed the Queensboro and Manhattan bridges and was consultant on such bridges as the George Washington, Golden Gate, Whitestone and many others.

The Arthur M. Wellington Prize was presented to Charles M. Noble, engineer, for the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, Harrisburg; the Collingswood Prize for Junior Engineers was presented to Douglas M. Stewart, of the Ingersoll-Rand Company, New York.

Five honorary memberships, given to outstanding engineers, were conferred on the following: C. Frank Allen, professor emeritus, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Anson Marston, past-president of the society and dean emeritus of engineering, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa; Arthur S. Tuttle, past president of the society, who has spent most of his life in the service of New York City in an engineering capacity; Frank E. Weymouth, general manager and chief engineer of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, who has just completed the Los Angeles Aqueduct, and Edward E. Wall, director of public utilities for St. Louis, who was represented by F. G. Jonah, chief engineer for the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH UNDER THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

ACCORDING to an Associated Press dispatch, President Roosevelt commended "to the consideration of the Congress" on January 23 a compilation of the activities of federal agencies in the field of research.

The report, prepared by the National Resources Committee, discussed federal research in medicine, agriculture, economics, public administration, etc. It suggested the coordination of such efforts.

Mr. Roosevelt's message follows:

I transmit herewith for the information of the Congress a report entitled "Research—A National Resource" compiled by the National Resources Committee.

This report deals with the relation of the Federal Government to research. Subsequent reports in this field will cover research by colleges, universities and foundations, by business organizations, by the industrial laboratories and by the state and municipal governments.

The dependence of civilization on science is universally recognized, but the extent of the activities of private and public agencies carrying on scientific inquiry is not generally known. It is unlikely that large numbers of our people have any adequate realization of the services which are being rendered by the executive agencies of the Federal Government through scientific researches in medicine, agriculture, economics, public administration and the other natural and social sciences.

This report indicates the new emphasis in recent years on activities in the social science fields and stresses the need for effective coordination of all agencies engaged in research in order to achieve the solution of many of our more difficult problems.

I commend the report to the consideration of the Congress.

In the report, the committee recommended these steps:

Further studies on work of the advisory committees which cooperate with federal research agencies and on research being done by states and municipalities.

Improvement in methods of recruiting research workers for government service.

Authorization for government research agencies to contract for cooperation with recognized private research organizations.

Financial support for international scientific meetings and encouragement of American participation in them.

Organization of government research so as to avoid the possibilities of bias.

Encouragement of decentralized research outside of the government.

Further interrelation of governmental research agencies by organization of central councils similar to those formed by private research.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. EDWARD R. WEIDLEIN, director of the Mellon Institute, Pittsburgh, Pa., has been presented with a Meritorious Service Medal of the State of Pennsylvania for "his outstanding contributions to industrial science."

DR. ARNO B. CAMMERER, director of the National Park Service, received the gold Cornelius Amory Pugsley Medal for park service in 1938 at the forty-fourth annual meeting in New York City on January 16 of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society.

THE Oersted Medal of the American Association of Physics Teachers, established through the generosity of an anonymous donor, was awarded for 1938 to Professor Alexander Wilmer Duff, professor emeritus of physics at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute. The award was made at the annual meeting of the American Association of Physics Teachers in Washington, D. C., on December 30.

THE Robert W. Hunt Award of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers for 1939 will be made to K. C. McCutcheon and John Chipman for their paper on "Evaluation of Gases from Rimming-Steel Ingots." The award of the Institute of Metals Division will be made to Frederick N. Rhines and Robert F. Mehl in recognition of their