

cial exhibits, and the attention of visitors was called to permanent exhibits in various sections of the museum connected with Edison's life and work.

THE bi-centenary of the birth of William Herschel, who is called "the father of modern sidereal astronomy," was celebrated in London in January by the Royal Astronomical Society, of which he became the first president in 1820. At that time he was eighty-two years old.

THE Draper Chemical Society of New York University will mark the one hundredth anniversary of the appointment of John William Draper to the chair of chemistry and the chair of physics at New York University by a meeting and exhibit in the Nichols Chemistry Laboratory at University Heights on Tuesday evening, February 21, at eight o'clock. The following addresses will be presented: Professor William West

on "The Scientific Accomplishments of John W. Draper," Professor Philip B. McDonald on "The Life of John W. Draper" and Miss Antonia C. Maury on "Personal Recollections of My Grandfather, John William Draper, and of Draper's Family." Miss Maury is curator of the Draper House and Museum at Hastings-on-Hudson. Apparatus used by Draper in his experiments and lectures at New York University will be exhibited together with some of his books and notes, much of it through the courtesy of his granddaughter, Mrs. Dorothy Draper Nye.

IN honor of William Bartram's two hundredth anniversary on February 9, the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia placed in its library an exhibit of Bartram's books and drawings. Probably Bartram's best-known contribution was his journal, "Travels through North and South Carolina, Georgia and East and West Florida."

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### SYMPOSIUM OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS ON TEMPERATURE AND ITS MEASUREMENT

A SYMPOSIUM on "Temperature and its Measurement in Science and Industry" will be held under the auspices of the American Institute of Physics (175 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.) probably next autumn; the dates to be announced later. Consistent with the title, the symposium will cover broadly many fields, its primary purposes, according to present plans, being (1) to coordinate the treatment of the subject in the sciences and branches of engineering; (2) to review principles and bring up to date the record of recent work; (3) to accumulate contributions for a comprehensive text, to be published as soon as possible after the symposium is held; (4) to reveal the subject as an important branch of physics, and (5) to supply schools with the information required for the improvement of curricula. The institute confidently expects that a stimulating, valuable and unified program will be arranged, an aim which will require the help of many contributors.

A representative steering committee has been formed consisting of the chairman, C. O. Fairechild, director of research, C. J. Tagliabue Manufacturing Company; Dr. E. F. DuBois, medical director, Russell Sage Institute of Pathology, and professor of medicine, Cornell University Medical College; Dr. Gustav Egloff, director of research, Universal Oil Products Company; Dr. John Johnston, director of research, U. S. Steel Corporation; Dr. Walter G. Whitman, head, department of chemical engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Dr. H. A. Barton, director, American Institute of Physics.

Those who are interested in taking part in this sym-

posium should communicate with the institute at an early date, giving information regarding their field of work and the subject of the contribution they wish to make. Such contributions will be coordinated with the subjects of a group of invited papers and assignments and divisions made. Further information for contributors will be available shortly.

### THE BALTIMORE MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

THE ninety-seventh meeting of the American Chemical Society, under the presidency of Professor Charles A. Kraus, of Brown University, will meet in Baltimore from April 3 to 7. Dr. J. C. W. Frazer, Baker professor of chemistry in the Johns Hopkins University, has been appointed honorary chairman of the meeting, and Dr. John C. Krantz, Jr., professor of pharmacology in the Medical School of the University of Maryland, has been named general chairman. Fifteen symposia reporting advances in scientific research and in the application of chemistry to industry, medicine, agriculture, food, engineering and public health are planned.

Seventeen of the eighteen professional divisions of the society will hold sessions. Details of the program follow:

*The Division of Agricultural and Food Chemistry* will sponsor a symposium on the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, in which the Divisions of Biological Chemistry and Medicinal Chemistry will cooperate. The Division of Medicinal Chemistry will direct a symposium on "Endocrines," in which general papers within the field of medicinal chemistry will be presented.

*The Division of Petroleum Chemistry* is arranging a symposium on "The Role of Catalysis in Petroleum Chem-

istry," under the chairmanship of Professor H. S. Taylor, of Princeton University. Professor Emeritus V. N. Ipatieff, of Northwestern University, will be the guest of honor at a dinner of the division on Tuesday, April 4. He will deliver an address on "The History of Catalysis and Petroleum Chemistry."

The Division of Biological Chemistry has scheduled a symposium on "Vitamins," and the Division of Cellulose Chemistry, a symposium on "American Cellulose in 1939." The Division of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry has arranged a symposium on "Thermal Insulation," in which the Division of Petroleum Chemistry will join.

The Division of Chemical Education plans four sessions—one a joint symposium with the Division of Physical and Inorganic Chemistry on "Theories and Teaching of Acids and Bases"; another devoted to a group of papers on chemical education in high schools; a third, for student papers; and, finally, a session for miscellaneous papers within the field of the division. Hundreds of teachers in the colleges, universities, secondary and elementary schools in the nation will take part.

The Division of Physical and Inorganic Chemistry will present a symposium on "Fundamentals of Heterogeneous Catalysis," with Professor Taylor as chairman. "The Application of Micro- and Semimicrochemistry to Industry" will be the subject of a symposium of the Division of Microchemistry, with Dr. G. E. F. Lundell, of the National Bureau of Standards, as chairman.

The Division of the History of Chemistry announces two sessions, one of which, jointly with the Division of Medicinal Chemistry, will be devoted to a symposium on the "History of Medicinal Chemistry in Baltimore." Dr. Henry E. Sigerist, director of the Institute of History of Medicine of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, will be a principal speaker. Professor Krantz will present a paper on "The History of Pharmacology in Baltimore."

The Division of Rubber Chemistry will feature a symposium on "Synthetic Rubber and Elastic Polymers." Other symposia will include "Industrial Utilization of Dairy Products" and "Colloids and Water and Waste Treatment." \*

Six sessions will be held by the Division of Organic Chemistry, four by the Division of Paint and Varnish Chemistry, two by the Division of Sugar Chemistry and Technology, and two by the Division of Gas and Fuel Chemistry.

#### THE TORONTO MEETING OF THE FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SOCIETIES FOR EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY

THE Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology will meet in Toronto from April 26 to 29. The Royal York Hotel will be the headquarters, and all scientific sessions, motion pictures and state demonstrations will be held in this hotel. The federation is formed by the union of the American Physiological Society, the American Society of Biological Chemists, the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics and the American Society for Experimental Pathology.

Dr. Glenn E. Cullen, of the University of Cincinnati, will be chairman of the federation by virtue of his election at the recent Baltimore meeting as president of the American Society of Biological Chemists. Dr. Walter E. Garrey is president of the American Physiological Society; Dr. Arthur L. Tatum, of the University of Wisconsin, of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, and Dr. C. Phillip Miller, of the University of Chicago, of the American Society for Experimental Pathology.

The scientific sessions will begin on Thursday morning, April 27. Wednesday will be available for visiting the University of Toronto and other points of interest. The American Institute of Nutrition will meet in the King Edward Hotel, about four blocks away, on this day. On Thursday evening at 9 o'clock the local committee will provide an informal smoker. The annual dinner will be held on Friday evening.

The American Physiological Society will hold two symposia, one on "Carbohydrate Metabolism" and the other on "The Synapse." A joint symposium will be held with the Biochemical Society on "The Red Blood Cells."

Members of the local committee are: Dr. V. E. Henderson, *chairman*; Dr. N. B. Taylor, *secretary*; Dr. E. T. Waters, *treasurer*; Dr. G. E. Hall, Dr. A. M. Wynne, Dr. D. Y. Solandt, Dr. G. H. Lucas, public information; Dr. R. A. Cleghorn, Dr. G. L. Duff, Dr. P. H. Greey, Dr. W. R. Campbell, Dr. J. K. W. Ferguson, Dr. D. A. Irwin, Dr. K. C. Fisher and B. F. Crocker.

#### THE SIXTH PACIFIC SCIENCE CONGRESS

ANNOUNCEMENT has been made by the National Research Council that the Sixth Pacific Science Congress will be held in San Francisco and vicinity during the period, July 24 to August 12, 1939, under the auspices of the council. The fifth congress in this series was held at Victoria and Vancouver, B. C., in 1933, under the auspices of the National Research Council of Canada, and previous congresses have been held at three-year intervals in other countries of the Pacific region.

Sessions of the sixth congress will be held at Stanford University and at the University of California at Berkeley, as host institutions on this occasion, and certain public functions and other sessions of the congress will be held in "Pacific House" on the grounds of the Golden Gate International Exposition through courtesy of the Department of the Pacific Area of the Exposition. The general arrangements are in charge of the standing Committee on Pacific Investigations of the National Research Council, of which Dr. Herbert E. Gregory, director emeritus of the Bishop Museum in Honolulu, is the chairman. Responsibility for completing the program and for local arrangements is in the hands of a Committee on the Sixth Pacific Science