

suit of truth for truth's sake" to consider the impact of his work upon society. Dr. Einstein emphasizes this when he warns: "It is not enough that you should understand about applied science in order that your work may increase man's blessings. Concern for the man himself and his fate must always form the chief interest of all technical endeavors. Never forget this in the midst of your diagrams and equations."

Thus it becomes the duty and privilege of the scientist of the future, because of his vantage point in viewing and understanding the significance of his own research, to take the initiative in pointing the way to a better social control and distribution of the "gifts of science." The challenge to follow up his work *socially* is a challenge which no progressive scientist can afford to ignore.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE DARWIN LIBRARY AT DOWN HOUSE

A PROPOSAL has been adopted by the Down House Committee of the British Association and endorsed by the council, to the effect that efforts should be made to accumulate a collection of books and papers relating to Darwin and his times, more representative than that which is at present housed in his former home. The major part of the existing collection consists of Darwin's own library, which belongs to the professor of botany in Cambridge for the time being, and was generously replaced in Down House by Sir Albert Seward during his tenure of that chair, an action confirmed by his successor, Professor F. T. Brooks. For the rest, the number of Darwinian books in the possession of the association is not large; whereas inquiries concerning such books are not infrequently made by visitors and others. It is felt that a collection such as it is now hoped to acquire will prove to be of real value to students and inquirers, as well as of interest to many who visit the house.

The committee's aim is to collect—(a) all biographies of Darwin; (b) contemporary works on Darwinian theories and kindred subjects; further, (c) the collection of Darwin's own publications (books and papers) is not complete, and (d) the committee would gladly receive and preserve contemporary reviews of Darwin's works.

It is believed that members of the association and others may be able and willing to add to the collection by gift. For any such help the committee and the council will be most grateful. Those who may be in a position to offer appropriate books or papers are asked, in the first instance, to communicate particulars thereof to The Secretary, British Association, Down House, Downe, Kent, in order that duplication may be avoided.

STANDARDS OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR TESTING MATERIALS

MODIFICATIONS are to be made by the American Society for Testing Materials in methods of publishing standard specifications and tests. These changes are to become effective next November.

All the 870 standards of the American Society for Testing Materials are in use in many branches of

industry and commerce. Each is available, and will continue to be in separate pamphlet form, and the standards have been issued in triennially published books of standards with an annual volume giving the so-called tentative standards and tests.

The new method of publication will be to issue the standards and tentative standards collectively in one triennial publication, divided into three parts: Part I, Metals; Part II, Non-Metallic Materials—Constructional; and Part III, Non-Metallic Materials—General. Publication of new and revised tentative standards in the annual *Proceedings*, Part I, will be discontinued; the *Proceedings*, including both committee reports and papers (about 1,300 pages double-column format), will be bound in one volume. The publication of the annual "Book of Tentative Standards" will be discontinued entirely. (The November, 1938, edition is thus the last one to be issued.)

In the two years between the triennial publication of the new book, supplements to each of the three parts will be issued, containing revision and new or revised standards and tentative standards for that year. Since these books will be appreciably larger than the present supplements and will have permanent reference value, they will be bound in cloth. The volume on "Methods of Chemical Analysis of Metals" published in 1936 will be continued as a separate publication.

It is provided that the three parts of the triennial publication in 1939 shall be made up as follows:

Part I, Metals.—Ferrous and non-ferrous metals (all A and B and some E serial designations) except methods of chemical analysis. General testing methods (E serial designations).

Part II, Non-metallic Materials—Constructional.—Cementitious materials, concrete and aggregates, masonry building units, ceramics, pipe and tile, thermal insulating materials (all C serial designations). Timber and timber preservatives, paints, varnishes and lacquers, road materials, waterproofing and roofing materials, soils (certain D serial designations). General testing methods, thermometers (E serial designations).

Part III, Non-metallic Materials—General.—Fuels, petroleum products, electrical insulating materials, rubber, textiles, soaps and detergents, paper, plastics, water (remainder of D serial designations). General testing methods, thermometers (E serial designations).

Further details of the plan can be obtained from the headquarters of the society, Philadelphia, Pa., including sales prices for the new "Book of Standards," 1940-41 Supplements and the annual *Proceedings*.

CONFERENCES ON THEORETICAL PHYSICS AND SPECTROSCOPY

THE thirteenth annual symposium on theoretical physics will be held at the University of Michigan from June 26 to August 18. The lecturers and subjects are as follows:

Professor Enrico Fermi, Columbia University
Throughout the Session
"Physics of High Energy Particles."
"Cosmic Rays."

Professor E. J. Williams, University of Wales
July 12 to August 12
"General Discussion of the Theory of Collision."
"Scattering of Fast Electrons and Cosmic Ray Particles."

Professor Gerhard Herzberg, University of Saskatchewan
Throughout the Session
"Band Spectra."

Assistant Professor John A. Wheeler, Princeton University
July 3 to August 12
"The Interaction between Electromagnetic Radiation and the Nucleus."

Dr. G. B. B. M. Sutherland, lecturer in physics,
Pembroke College, Cambridge
July 24 to August 5
"Applications of Infra-red Spectra to the Determination of Inter- and Intra-Molecular Forces."

The seventh Conference on Spectroscopy will be held at the George Eastman Research Laboratories of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on July 17, 18 and 19, repeating the type of program presented at the conferences held during the past six summers. Reports will be given by spectroscopists from university and industrial research and analytical laboratories and by biologists, geologists, metallurgists, chemists and physicists, who have found spectroscopic equipment useful in their investigations.

Morning and afternoon meetings will be held on three days. Papers and discussions on analysis of material by the emission spectrum, absorption spectrophotometry, photographic photometry, biological and chemical effects of spectral radiation and industrial applications of spectroscopy are being prepared. Copies of the detailed program of the conference will be sent on request to any one interested, but as the attendance at the conference is limited to two hundred, those expecting to attend from a distance are urged to signify in advance their intention of being present. No fee is charged in connection with the conference.

The usual summer courses on practical and applied

spectroscopy will be offered at the institute between June 12 and July 22. Requests for fuller information regarding the spectroscopy conference, including titles of the papers to be presented, and for data regarding the summer courses should be addressed to Professor George R. Harrison, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.

BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY

At the annual meeting of the Boston Society of Natural History, held on May 5 at the New England Museum of Natural History, the following officers were elected: *President*, John K. Howard; *Vice-presidents*, Glover M. Allen, Harold L. Babcock and Thomas D. Cabot; *Secretary*, Charles H. Blake; *Treasurer*, Augustus P. Loring, Jr.; *Executive Director*, Bradford Washburn; *Scientific Director*, Edward Wigglesworth; *Trustees*, Thomas Barbour, Charles H. Blake, Arthur Burger, Thornton W. Burgess, Alexander Forbes, Ludlow Griscom, Ralph Hornblower, Carl T. Keller, A. Lawrence Lowell, Alfred C. Redfield and William H. Weston, Jr.

In February Bradford Washburn, of the Institute of Geographical Exploration at Harvard University, took office as executive director of the New England Museum of Natural History. For ten years he has been largely engaged in pioneer exploration of the mountains of Alaska, both on the ground and from the air. He made first ascents of Mounts Lucania, Sanford and Saint Agnes.

Each year the society offers a prize known as the Walker Prize for the best memoir presented in a field of natural history. This year the prize was awarded to Donald R. Griffin, of Harvard University, for his paper on "The Migrations of New England Bats."

The Walker Grand Prize in Natural History, awarded once in five years for meritorious scientific investigation or discovery in natural history, was granted to Dr. John N. Couch, of the University of North Carolina, for his work on the genus *Septobasidium* published in the early spring of 1938.

IN HONOR OF GLOVER MORRILL ALLEN

THE Visiting Committee of the Overseers of Harvard University and the faculty and staff of the Museum of Comparative Zoology gathered on the afternoon of May 5 to do honor to Dr. Glover Morrill Allen. The occasion was to celebrate the appearance, within one year, of three publications of outstanding importance.

1. The first volume of the Mammals of China and Mongolia, being volume 11 of the series entitled Natural History of Central Asia, published by the American Museum of Natural History.

2. The Checklist of African Mammals, being volume 83 of the *Bulletin* of the Museum of Comparative Zoology.