ment of health activities and medical care for the people of the United States. It is as follows:

1. The establishment of an agency of the federal government under which shall be coordinated and administered all medical and health functions of the federal government exclusive of those of the Army and Navy.

2. The allotment of such funds as the Congress may make available to any state in actual need, for the prevention of disease, the promotion of health and the care of the sick on proof of such need.

3. The principle that the care of the public health and the provision of medical service to the sick is primarily a local responsibility.

4. The development of a mechanism for meeting the needs of expansion of preventive medical services with local determination of needs and local control of administration.

5. The extension of medical care for the indigent and the medically indigent with local determination of needs and local control of administration.

6. In the extension of medical services to all the people, the utmost utilization of qualified medical and hospital facilities already established.

7. The continued development of the private practice of medicine, subject to such changes as may be necessary to maintain the quality of medical services and to increase their availability.

8. Expansion of public health and medical services consistent with the American system of democracy.

INTER-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MICROBIOLOGY

AT the close of the third International Congress of Microbiology held in New York on September 9 and 10, steps were taken toward the establishment of an Inter-American Society of Microbiology.

The preliminary discussion clearly showed that inter-American cooperation in the field of microbiology presents opportunity for the solution of two major problems, both concerned with the advancement of the science of microbiology and making such accumulating knowledge more readily available to all scientific men in the Western Hemisphere.

The first of these problems consists in devising means for effecting a better exchange of the results of important studies in microbiology now being carried out in Latin America and in North America to the mutual advantage of all.

The second problem, directed toward essentially the same end, and of equal if not greater importance, comprehends the use of all present resources and the establishment of new ones to effect a more intimate affiliation between the workers of all countries in the study of those diseases which are common to all. This contemplates not only an exchange of the results of work done, but of workers as well, thus fostering through intimate association a better understanding of microbiological questions in the broader sense supplemented by a knowledge of the peculiar conditions which different geographic areas may bring to bear on such questions.

The basis for the first of these problems is the unfortunate fact that investigators in Canada and in the United States gain but fragmentary knowledge of the increasingly numerous important original contributions emanating from Latin America. This is due largely to the fact that comparatively few scientific men in North America are familiar with the Spanish and Portuguese languages.

It is the purpose of the Inter-American Society to approach a solution of this problem; first, through assuming editorial responsibility for one or more journals devoted to microbiology and allied subjects, and second, through organizing periodic inter-American congresses of microbiology.

The initial step in the problem involves the establishment of an *Inter-American Journal of Microbiology,* this to serve as the official organ of the society. It is proposed to make its pages available to contributors from both Latin America and North America, the necessary editorial work, including translations into English of the Spanish and Portuguese papers being done in the United States.

The Inter-American Society proposes to hold, within the next three years, the first Inter-American Congress on Microbiology at Rio de Janeiro in order to carry out that part of its program which can not be undertaken immediately. Dr. J. C. N. Penido, of Rio de Janeiro, was chosen to organize a committee to prepare for the congress. The presiding officer at this congress will be Dr. A. Fontes.

Dr. A. Sordelli, director of the Bacteriological Institute for the Department of Hygiene of Buenos Aires, was elected first president of the society. Dr. F. Duran-Reynals, of Yale University, was chosen executive secretary, charged with the duty of organizing within each of the American Republics a local committee to foster the interests of the society.

ACTIVITIES OF THE U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

DR. W. C. MENDENHALL, director of the U. S. Geological Survey, has sent to SCIENCE the following particulars in regard to the work of the survey.

The following members of the Geologic Branch have recently returned to Washington after completing their season's field work on the projects indicated: G. F. Loughlin, chief geologist, made an inspection trip of geologic field parties in the West. He spent two weeks examining the underground workings of gold mines in the Little Rocky Mountains, Montana, and conferred with field parties in the San Juan and Cripple Creek districts, Colorado, and in Death Valley, and also with officials in Denver and Salt Lake City; G. R. Mansfield attended the meetings of the Industrial Minerals Division of the American In-

stitute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers in Tuscaloosa, Ala., conferred with W. H. Monroe, of the Geological Survey, regarding investigations of the geology around Livingston, Ala., and Jackson, Miss., and inspected bentonite deposits in Monroe County, Miss.

For the fifteenth consecutive field season, geologic work was conducted by the Federal Survey in Colorado in cooperation with the Colorado Geological Survey and the Colorado Metal Mining Fund. The following projects were in progress this season: Geologic mapping, commenced in 1938 in the Alta and Palmyra Basins, was continued by John S. Vhay; field work on the geology and ore deposits of the Red Mountain area, Colo., has been concluded by W. S. Burbank; A. H. Koschmann continued his study of structure and ore deposits in the Cripple Creek mining district, and E. N. Goddard completed a study of gold deposits at Gold Hill.

Field work connected with the remapping of the Eureka mining district, central Nevada, has been terminated for this season by T. B. Nolan. During the summer, Mr. Nolan devoted approximately a month to study of tungsten districts in Nevada, California and Arizona; E. N. Goddard completed field work on the manganese deposits of the Philipsburg district, Montana; Charles F. Park continued field work on manganese deposits of the Olympic Peninsula, Washington. Mr. Park, assisted by Russell G. Wayland, also examined manganese deposits in the Butte district, Montana; F. G. Wells mapped chromium deposits in the Grants Pass and Kerby quadrangles, Oregon. He also studied the Pilliken chromium mine, in Eldorado County, Calif.; field work on the geology and mineral deposits of the Seven Devils mining district, western Idaho, conducted in cooperation with the Idaho Bureau of Mines and Geology, has been concluded by R. S. Cannon.

On the evening of November 6, Dr. J. B. Mertie, Jr., of the Alaskan Branch of the Geological Survey, delivered a lecture before the New York Academy of Sciences in the American Museum in New York City. Dr. Mertie, who has a background of many field seasons in Alaska, took for his title the "Geological Features of Alaska."

Glenn L. Parker, district engineer of the Tacoma, Washington, district since May 31, 1913, has recently been appointed chief hydraulic engineer of the Water Resources Branch.

S. K. Love, of the Water Resources Branch, has returned from Idaho, where he has been determining run-off and silt removal from areas believed to be representative of different types of vegetative and timber cover and of various grazing practices. The investigation is being conducted by the Geological Survey in cooperation with the Flood Coordinating Committee of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

A comprehensive study of the surface- and ground-water resources of southeastern Florida was recently begun by the Geological Survey in cooperation with the cities of Miami, Miami Beach and Coral Gables, and Dade County. A field office has been established at Miami with William P. Cross in general charge. The surface-water investigations are under the general supervision of Donald S. Wallace, district engineer, Ocala, Florida, and the ground-water investigations under the general supervision of V. T. Stringfield.

AWARD OF THE EGLESTON MEDALS OF THE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

TWELVE distinguished graduates of the School of Engineering of Columbia University were presented at a special convocation on November 27 with the medals for "distinguished engineering achievement" established this year by alumni in memory of Professor Thomas Egleston, who played the chief role in founding the school as the first School of Mines in the United States seventy-five years ago.

The medalists are:

Walter H. Aldridge, a member of the class of 1887, president of the Texas Gulf Sulphur Company.

Major Edwin H. Armstrong, '13, professor of electrical engineering at Columbia.

Marston T. Bogert, '94, professor emeritus of organic chemistry at Columbia.

Gano Dunn, '91, president of Cooper Union.

Arthur S. Dwight, '85, president of the Dwight and Lloyd Metallurgical Company, New York.

Henry Krumb, '98, New York, consulting engineer.

Irving Langmuir, '03, associate director of the General Electric Research Laboratory, Schenectady, N. Y.

Leon S. Moisseiff, '95, New York consulting engineer.

Robert Peele, '83, professor emeritus of mining at Columbia.

Sir Stephen J. Pigott, '03, managing director of the John Brown Company, Clydebank, Scotland.

Robert C. Stanley, '01, president of the International Nickel Company.

Arthur L. Walker, '83, New York consulting metallurgist.

The presentations were made by Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of the university, in the rotunda of the Low Memorial Library, in connection with the anniversary celebration of the School of Engineering. Dr. William O. Hotchkiss, president of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, spoke on "Seventy-five Years of Progress; Empirical Art to Technological Science," and Dr. Harvey N. Davis, president of the Stevens Institute of Technology, made an address entitled "Seventy-Five Years of Engineering Education."

In the future the Egleston Medal will be awarded annually to a single alumnus who has "distinguished himself either in the furtherance of his branch or the profession, in the development of processes or of technique, or in the application of engineering principles."

RECENT DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

PROFESSOR GEORGE ERLE BEGGS, chairman of the department of civil engineering at Princeton University and a member of the faculty for twenty-five years, died on November 23. He was fifty-six years old.