eight truck-loads of soil, sand, cinders, leaf-mold and manure were brought in, besides six tons of rock and 1,000 square feet of dressed flagstone for walks.

The science course for professional gardeners is serving as a model for similar courses in distant cities. The Montreal Botanical Garden and the Golden Gate Park in San Francisco are now opening courses based on the one in New York, and one of the graduates of the garden is directing a course in horticulture at Dillard University in New Orleans.

The two-year course in practical gardening, the first graduation exercises of which will be held next June, has had an attendance of a hundred students. A new course in the identification of plants in the vicinity of New York was started during the year. It is planned especially for teachers and nature-study leaders.

At the close of his report, Dr. Robbins expressed appreciation for the work performed by the Works Progress Administration during the year. In addition to the extensive outside labor provided, the WPA has given the garden invaluable assistance in the herbarium, library, laboratory and elsewhere, doing mounting, filing, indexing, book-binding, typing, writing of labels and serving as research assistants.

ENLARGEMENT OF THE CHEMISTRY BUILDING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

THE new addition to the Chemistry Building at the University of Cincinnati was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies planned and conducted by student organizations on Friday, January 26. Addresses were made by Dr. Raymond Walters, president of the university, Dr. Robert C. Gowdy, dean of the College of Engineering and Commerce, and the guest of honor, Professor Alfred H. White, professor of chemical engineering at the University of Michigan.

The addition, which was built at a cost of $500,000, more than doubles the size of the old building to which it is joined and contains lecture room space for 1,500 students at one time. Most of the added space has been used for expansion by the departments of liberal arts, chemistry and chemical engineering. The remainder is for the present occupied by the department of mathematics of the College of Engineering and Commerce.

Existing laboratories have been increased in size about 50 per cent., and entirely new facilities have been provided for the work in unit operations, engineering research, metallurgy, industrial bacteriology and optico-chemistry of the rapidly growing department of chemical engineering. There is also an auditorium seating four hundred, which is well equipped for lectures, demonstrations and sound movies. Construction was made possible through a municipal bond issue and a P.W.A. grant.

OFFICERS OF THE WASHINGTON ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

AT the forty-second annual meeting of the Washington Academy of Sciences on January 18, the election of the following officers was announced: *President,* E. C. Crittenden, Bureau of Standards; *Corresponding secretary,* F. D. Rossini, Bureau of Standards; *Recording secretary,* F. C. Kracek, Geophysical Laboratory; *Treasurer,* H. S. Rappleye, Coast and Geodetic Survey; *Non-resident vice-presidents,* P. G. Agnew, American Standards Association, and Gifford Pinchot, Milford, Pa.; *Members of the Board of Managers* for 3 years, J. F. Couch, Bureau of Animal Industry, and J. E. Graf, Smithsonian Institution.

Resident vice-presidents, nominated by each affiliated society to represent it on the Board of Managers, were elected as follows: *Philosophical,* R. E. Gibson, Geophysical Laboratory; *Anthropological,* Frank M. Setzler, U. S. National Museum; *Biological,* W. B. Bell, Biological Survey; *Chemical,* A. T. McPherson, Bureau of Standards; *Entomological,* A. H. Clark, Smithsonian Institution; *National Geographic,* A. Wetmore, Smithsonian Institution; *Medical,* Fred O. Coe, 1835 Eye Street, N.W.; *Historical,* Allen C. Clark, 816 14th Street, N.W.; *Botanical,* Charles Thom, Bureau of Plant Industry; *Archeological,* Aleš Hrdlička, Smithsonian Institution; *Foresters,* W. A. Dayton, Forest Service; *Washington Engineers,* P. C. Whitney, Coast and Geodetic Survey; *Electrical Engineers,* H. L. Curtis, Bureau of Standards; *Mechanical Engineers,* Walter Ramberg, Bureau of Standards; *Helminthological,* E. W. Price, Bureau of Animal Industry; *Bacteriological,* R. R. Spencer, National Institute of Health; *Military Engineers,* C. L. Garner, Coast and Geodetic Survey; *Radio Engineers,* H. G. Dorsey, Coast and Geodetic Survey.

THE SUMMER MEETINGS OF BOTANISTS

THE 1940 summer meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and affiliated societies will be held at the University of Washington, in Seattle, Washington, from June 17 to 22, inclusive. The Pacific Section of the Botanical Society of America will meet at the same time and place as one of the affiliated societies, and will arrange a program in cooperation with the Botanical Society of America and with Section G of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Opportunities will be given for members of the Botanical Society of America, whether living in the Pacific Section or elsewhere, to present papers during the meetings. Any member of the Botanical Society who plans to attend the meetings at Seattle and who wishes to present a paper should send the title of the paper, an abstract of not over two hundred words, the time required for presentation and a request for a projector in case slides are to be used, to Ira L. Wig-

gins, secretary-treasurer of the Pacific Section. The maximum time allowed for presentation of a contributed paper will be fifteen minutes, and authors are requested to make serious efforts to hold their papers to such lengths that they can be presented in ten minutes or less.

All titles and abstracts of papers must be in the hands of the secretary not later than May 1. Those arriving after that date can not be included in the printed program.

An excursion to the Friday Harbor Marine Station of the University of Washington is being planned by the Botanical Society and by the American Society of Plant Physiologists on the final day of the meetings. Possibly a second excursion, to the Olympic Peninsula, will be arranged for those whose interests are concerned with flowering plants rather than with marine organisms. A fuller announcement concerning the excursions will be made later.

IRA L. WIGGINS,
Secretary-Treasurer, Pacific Section of the Botanical Society of America
STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIF.

THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY AND DR. SPRINGER

MORE than 3,500 chemists will convene in Cincinnati for the ninety-ninth meeting of the American Chemical Society, which will meet from April 8 to 12 under the auspices of the Cincinnati section. Sessions will be held by seventeen of the divisions. Dr. Alfred Springer, dean of Cincinnati chemists, who on February 12 will celebrate his eighty-sixth birthday, has been appointed honorary chairman of the meeting. Proctor Thomson, head of the Standards Department of the Chemical Division of the Procter and Gamble Company, will be general chairman.

Dr. Springer is known for his work on fermentation and for his inventions of the torsion balance, widely used in pharmacy, and for aluminum sounding boards for musical instruments. For fifty-seven years, until his retirement in 1930, he was the owner of the chemical firm of Alexander Fries and Brothers, founded in Cincinnati by his uncle. He promoted American forestry and stream purification movements, and was one of the founders of the American Forestry Congress in 1882. Dr. Springer was born in Cincinnati. He received the Ph.D. degree from the University of Heidelberg in Germany at the age of eighteen, studying under Bunsen and Kirchhoff. In 1931 the university conferred upon him, as the oldest surviving graduate holding the Ph.D., the honorary degree of doctor of natural science.

In 1879 a group of chemists at Dr. Springer's home organized the first local chemical society, which in 1892 became the Cincinnati Section of the American Chemical Society, of which he was chairman in 1892 and 1906. He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, of which he was general secretary in 1884 and vice-president in 1892, and a corresponding member of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. For the invention of the torsion balance, he received the John Scott Legacy premium and medal of the Franklin Institute in 1891.

The ten symposia planned for the meeting include discussions of the utilization of agricultural wastes, the combustion of solid fuels, the chemistry of insulation, cellulose plastics, sulfanilamide and related derivatives, sterols and lipoids, the application of mathematics to chemistry, fundamental chemical thermodynamics of hydrocarbons and their derivatives, phase transitions and the future of chemistry as a specialized science in the high-school curriculum. Industrial research will be emphasized in the discussions.

Convention headquarters will be at the Netherland Plaza Hotel, where registration will begin on Sunday, April 7. Sessions of the divisions will be held at the Netherland Plaza, Gibson and Sinton Hotels.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. FREDERICK H. SEARES, astronomer and assistant director of the Mount Wilson Observatory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, was awarded the Catherine Wolfe Bruce Gold Medal "for distinguished services to astronomy" at the annual meeting of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, which was held on January 27 in San Francisco.

DR. FRANK CONRAD, of Pittsburgh, assistant chief engineer of the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company, was presented with the 1940 Gold Medal of the American Institute of the City of New York for pioneer work in radio broadcasting at the annual dinner of the institute on the evening of January 28. The annual fellowship was presented to William L. Laurence, science news reporter of *The New York Times*. Dr. Conrad was presented for the medal by Dr. David Sarnoff, president of the Radio Corporation of America, and Mr. Laurence was presented for the fellowship by Dr. Oscar Riddle, of the Station for Experimental Evolution at Cold Spring Harbor. Robert T. Pollock, president of the institute, presided and presented the medals. The addresses made on this occasion by Dr. Sarnoff and Dr. Conrad appear in the present issue of SCIENCE.

THE ALFRED NOBLE PRIZE, consisting of the sum of $500 and a certificate, given annually to a young engi-