E. W. Chittenden, of the University of Iowa, spoke about the "Classification of Topological Functions," connecting the foundations of topology with the so-called lattice theory. Dr. John W. Tukey, of Princeton University, spoke about "The Equal Generality of 'Convergence,' 'Closure' and 'Neighborhoods,'" pointing out the equivalence of the three classical foundations of topology, provided that they are taken in a sufficiently general sense. Dr. A. N. Milgram, of the University of Notre Dame, presented a paper, entitled, "Partially Ordered Sets and Topology," in which he succeeded in deriving important parts of classical topology for general partially ordered sets without any assumption about the existence of points. Professor G. B. Price, of the University of Kansas, conducted a discussion.

In the afternoon meeting on Thursday, conducted by Professor W. L. Ayres, of the University of Michigan, Professor S. Lefschetz spoke on "The Foundations of Algebraic Topology." This theory, started by Poincaré, is of an entirely combinational character. Dr. Henry Wallman, of the Institute for Advanced Study, spoke on "Lattices and Connectivity," first presenting some recent ideas of J. W. Alexander and then his own introduction of topological spaces on the basis of the theory of lattices which he developed in continuation of the work of M. H. Stone.

The meeting was attended by a group of more than forty visitors.

KARL MENGER

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE FOUNDING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY OF WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

WESTERN RESERVE COLLEGE was founded at Hudson, Ohio, in 1826, and in the early years chemistry was taught only as a part of other courses. It was not until the college year 1839–40 that a professor began service who taught a course wholly devoted to chemistry. This course was given for one term of the senior year.

The centenary of this event has just been celebrated at the university in Cleveland on Open House Day, April 12. In 1882 the college moved to Cleveland, and at the same time its name was changed to Western Reserve University. Samuel St. John was appointed by the trustees as professor of chemistry, mineralogy and geology and took up his duties in the fall of 1839. He was a graduate of Yale College of the class of 1834. After graduation he remained in New Haven for two years, studying law, and was admitted to the bar in 1836. During the year 1836–7 he was tutor of Latin at Yale and besides took some lectures in medicine, receiving the degree of A.M. in 1837. He then spent a year in Europe, attending lectures on natural history and medicine in London and Paris. The year 1838–39 he was at Columbia University studying with John Torrey, professor of botany and chemistry. While teaching at Western Reserve he received the honorary degree of M.D. from the Vermont Medical College and that of LL.D. from Georgetown College, Kentucky. He resigned his position in the arts college of Western Reserve in 1852, but continued to teach in its Medical School until 1856. In 1858 he succeeded Torrey in the Medical School of Columbia University and died in 1876.

For the next five years chemistry was taught by various instructors, and in 1857 J. Lang Cassels, M.D., who had been teaching in the Western Reserve Medical School, took over the course in chemistry in the arts college. Dr. Cassels was a native of Edinburgh, but had taken his medical degree in New York State. He continued to teach chemistry in the college until 1869, when Edward W. Morley, A.B., Williams, 1860, was appointed Hurlbut professor of natural history and chemistry. Up to this time chemistry had been taught wholly by means of lecture demonstrations and recitations. In 1870, however, under Professor Morley's direction a laboratory room was fitted up for students, and in the words of the catalogue from this time on "students performed under the guidance of the professor all of those experiments which were suitable for them, while those that demanded more experience were performed for the class at the table of the teacher."

After the college was moved to Cleveland additional courses were offered, and in 1892, H. P. Cushing, professor of geology and mineralogy, took over the teaching of qualitative analysis. In 1895, a full-time instructor was added in the person of Dr. Hippolyte Gruener, and in order to give Professor Morley more time to devote to research Dr. O. F. Tower joined the department in 1898. In 1906 Professor Morley[1] retired, and in 1910 a new chemical laboratory was erected and named the Morley Chemical Laboratory. In the meantime Professor Morley had been succeeded by Dr. Tower as Hurlbut professor of chemistry and by Dr. Gruener as professor in the College for Women. Since then the department has grown rapidly, and now, taking into account the department of biochemistry in the Medical School and of pharmaceutical chemistry in the School of Pharmacy, there are twenty-three professors, instructors and lecturers together with many assistants giving eighty-six courses in chemistry in the university.

In celebration of this one hundredth anniversary many of the stores of Cleveland kindly loaned some of their display windows for exhibits arranged by members of the chemical department illustrating various phases in the industrial application of chemistry.

[1] For an obituary of Professor Morley, see SCIENCE, 57: 431.

Also many of the leading chemical manufacturers in this district arranged exhibits in the chemical laboratory illustrating the industrial progress brought about by chemistry in the last one hundred years.

The culminating event of the celebration was a public address on the evening of April 12 by Dr. Harrison E. Howe, editor of the *Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* in Severance Hall, home of the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra, on "Modern Chemistry and the Next One Hundred Years." Preceding the address, the faculty of the department of chemistry entertained Dr. and Mrs. Howe at dinner at the Cleveland Club.

O. F. TOWER

APPOINTMENTS IN THE REGIONAL LABORATORIES OF THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

THE Department of Agriculture will make a large number of appointments in the new regional Laboratories for Research on Utilization of Farm Products as a result of examinations to be announced by the Civil Service Commission in the near future. These examinations will be held in the grades from P-2 ($2,600), assistant chemist and assistant chemical technologist, to P-5 ($4,600), senior chemist and senior chemical technologist.

Dr. Henry G. Knight, of the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering, calls especial attention to the significance of the fact that these examinations are the first to be held for chemists and chemical technologists in these particular grades since the establishment of the regional laboratories in July, 1938. Ever since that time the Department of Agriculture and the Civil Service Commission have been flooded with requests for information about appointments to vacancies in the laboratories. All such requests have been answered with the statement that appointments to the laboratories would be made from Civil Service registers set up by examinations to be held at the proper time.

These examinations will soon be announced. During the next two years about four hundred appointments to the regional laboratories will be made from Civil Service registers established through these new examinations. Positions will be filled requiring the services of organic, physical and analytical chemists, and others in the fields of carbohydrate chemistry, protein chemistry, oil chemistry, cellulose chemistry and chemical engineering as well as in a number of other fields. It is hoped that every person who is now interested or is likely to be interested in the future in a position in these laboratories will avail himself of this opportunity to become eligible for appointment, even though he may not be able to accept a position at the present time.

It should be emphasized that appointments in these laboratories can be made only as a result of Civil Service eligibility established through examination, and that these examinations are the ones through which the largest part of the staff of the laboratories will be selected.

All inquiries should be addressed to the United States Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C.

THE EIGHTH AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS

THE Eighth American Scientific Congress will be held in Washington, D. C., from May 10 to 18. According to the official bulletin the congress has two cardinal purposes:

To advance scientific thought and achievement; to assist in celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Pan American Union.

Present also are the basic purposes of all inter-American meetings, namely, the examination of problems peculiar to this hemisphere and the promotion of better understanding among the American republics. It is particularly fitting therefore that this assembly of distinguished scientists and scholars should join with the Pan American Union in celebrating the completion of a half century of invaluable service to the governments and peoples of the Americas. The promotion of friendlier relations between the nations themselves may be beyond the competence of the individual scientist, but it is undeniable that the confraternity of nations is immeasurably advanced through the collective efforts of those men who, marching ever in the vanguard of civilization, maintain that science knows no national boundaries.

In a letter to Secretary of State Cordell Hull, President Roosevelt writes:

Our debt to the men and women of science defies computation. The generous contributions which scholars and technicians have made to our twentieth century civilization have earned for them a position of influence and respect unparalleled in any other period of the world's history. The path of the scientist and scholar is the path to peace and prosperity which lies open to all nations and all peoples, but which unfortunately has recently been spurned by some who still cling to the archaic standards of human conduct prevalent before the very dawn of science.

It is hardly necessary to delineate here the obvious benefits resulting from a meeting of these unselfish benefactors of mankind in an atmosphere of true fraternity such as the Eighth American Scientific Congress offers. I sincerely hope that professional leaders in all the Americas will avail themselves of this opportunity to share the experiences and friendship of their colleagues throughout the hemisphere.

Dr. Alexander Wetmore, assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., is secretary general of the congress, which is divided into eleven sections as follows:

Section I, Anthropological Sciences, *Chairman*, Dr. Herbert J. Spinden, curator, division of American Indian Art and Primitive Cultures, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, N. Y.