tions are still further complicated by the fact that they appear to show differences in chemical structure with variation of species.

To future generations of inquirers into the complexities of living matter, Dr. Levene extended this message of hope and confidence, which is quoted from the concluding lines of his acceptance address at the Willard Gibbs Medal presentation in 1931: "Step by step, one mystery of life after another is being revealed. Whether the human mind will ever attain complete and absolute knowledge of and complete mastery of life is not essential. It is certain, however, that the revolt of the biochemist against the idea of a restriction to human curiosity will continue. New discoveries in physics, in mathematics, in theoretical chemistry furnish new tools to biochemistry, new tools for the solution of old problems and for the creation of new ones. So long as life continues, the human mind will create mysteries and biochemistry will play a part in their solution."

LAWRENCE W. BASS

MELLON INSTITUTE

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

ENGINEERING EDUCATION AT THE RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

A NEW plan in engineering education will be put into practice at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute this year. Through the cooperation of the General Electric Company, a large group of carefully selected students will attend for three consecutive months on the plants of the company.

This plan differs from other cooperative arrangements with industries for the education and employment training of engineering students in the fact that it permits graduation of the students within the regular four-year period, instead of making necessary an extra year in college.

The chief objection of the general cooperative plan —the extra year with its cost to the student in time and money—has been finally overcome. This will be accomplished mainly by including a classroom program to run currently in the plants with the practical experience program, and by arranging summer courses at the institute during which the students will make up what they missed in their absence. Another important feature contributing to the feasibility of this four-year plan is the fact that the outside courses will be concentrated in three consecutive months in the junior year alone rather than being split into alternating periods of several weeks each over several years.

The students selected will be juniors in the departments of mechanical engineering and electrical engineering. The courses will begin on April 1 and continue to July 1, when the students will return to the institute for the summer courses specially designed for them. Thus they will begin their senior year with three months of practical training behind them and at a time when they will be beginning to think most seriously of obtaining jobs after graduation. Much of the work of their last year can thus be interpreted in terms of what they observed in practical experience. Also they will have had three months to demonstrate and measure their abilities under the observation and counsel of prospective employers; the work of their senior year also can be interpreted and developed in terms of their discoveries in these respects. Naturally, the General Electric Company entered the plan with the hope that it would help make available men for permanent employment, but there is no employment obligation on the part of either the company or of the students. However, it is pointed out that the experience obviously would be valued by any employer.

In common with other cooperative "earn as you learn" plans, the student will receive wages while in training, thus enabling him to help pay his way through his last year. It is estimated he should save from $75 to $125 over living expenses.

EXTENSION COURSES IN AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING OF CORNELL UNIVERSITY

IN cooperation with the Federal Government's program for national defense, Cornell University opened in Buffalo on October 7 an extension center giving advanced training in aeronautical engineering to employees of the aircraft industry. Unlike some programs set up by other institutions, under which employees must leave their jobs for a time to attend school, the Cornell plan will bring the faculty to the industries and give courses after working hours, so that production will not be curtailed at this critical time. These courses are the first ever given away from the university by the College of Engineering.

A staff from the college, under the direct supervision of Dean S. C. Hollister, will hold classes in Burgard Vocational High School, where facilities have been made available by the Buffalo Board of Education. The entire program will be financed without Federal or state funds.

Instruction will be offered especially for qualified employees of the Curtiss-Wright Corporation and the Bell Aircraft Corporation, where there has been for some time an acute shortage of aeronautical engineers. The immediate plan is to convert mechan-