March issue will appear just previous to the annual meeting of the federation, and will be composed of two parts. Part I will include the abstracts of all the papers to be presented at the annual meeting, about a thousand in all. These abstracts will be segregated as to society origin and will be indexed according to subjects and authors. Part II will comprise the program of the scientific sessions of all the constituent societies of the federation. The June and September issues will include the full text of perhaps twenty of the papers presented at the annual meeting as selected by the editorial board, including probably the papers on the joint program of the federation as a whole as well as the papers of one symposium of each of the five societies. The December issue will include material pertinent to the federation membership, which was formerly published in the Federation Yearbook, which will hereafter be discontinued.

In the past each society has printed its own abstracts in advance of the meeting in a separate pamphlet. After the meeting the abstracts were republished in permanent form in the journals of the various societies. In the future a single publication will suffice and abstracts of all the societies will be available in a single volume. Moreover, journal space formerly devoted to abstracts will now be available for the usual scientific papers. The new procedure will be more convenient for reference and will be on the whole more economical. This new publication is certain to be in great demand in libraries because of the large number of short papers which it will contain and to which frequent reference will be made in the literature. In addition, it will make universally available a certain number of the more valuable papers read at the annual meeting which only relatively few persons can hear at the time of actual delivery.

The *Federation Proceedings* will be distributed on payment of dues without further charge to the seventeen hundred members of the federation. The subscription price to non-members will be $4.00 ($4.50 foreign), payable in advance. Single issues may be purchased, if ordered in advance of publication, at prices to be determined at the time of issue. Subscriptions and other communications concerning advertising space, etc., should be addressed to: Dr. D. R. Hooker, Managing Editor, 19 West Chase Street, Baltimore, Maryland.

## BOSTON MEETING OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

THE fifty-fourth annual meeting of the Geological Society of America will be held from December 29 to 31 at the Hotel Statler, Boston, under the auspices of the Geological Society of Boston, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University. The address of the retiring president, Dr. Charles P. Berkey, professor emeritus of geology of Columbia University, will be delivered in the Ball Room, on Monday evening, December 29, at 8 o'clock. It will be followed by a smoker.

Associated societies that will hold meetings in conjunction with the Geological Society are:

The Paleontological Society, thirty-third annual meeting, secretary, H. E. Vokes, American Museum of Natural History, New York.

The Mineralogical Society of America, twenty-second annual meeting, secretary, Paul F. Kerr, Columbia University.

The Society of Economic Geologists, twenty-second annual meeting, secretary, W. D. Johnston, Jr., U. S. Geological Survey.

The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, first annual meeting, secretary, George G. Simpson, American Museum of Natural History, New York.

There will be an all-day tour of Boston Harbor and historic Boston on Tuesday, December 30, and the annual dinner will be held in the ball room of the Hotel Statler at 7 o'clock in the evening. Trips for small groups will be arranged on request. Because of the uncertainty of weather conditions and probable gasoline rationing, no geological trips have been planned. The local geologists, however, will be glad to make tentative plans for informal trips. Any one interested should communicate with Dr. Cornelius S. Hurlbut, Jr., department of mineralogy and petrography, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., giving that phase of the local geology in which he is interested. During the meeting fellows of the society are invited to visit the departments of geology at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The Geological Society will join with Section E of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Texas Academy of Science and the Association of American Geographers in sponsoring the meetings to be held in Dallas on December 29, 30 and 31. Hugh D. Miser as retiring vice-president will deliver the principal address: "Quartz Veins in the Ouachita Mountains of Arkansas and Oklahoma." The subjects of the three days of meetings are scheduled as follows:

December 29: "Structure and Stratigraphy of the Southwest."

December 30, morning session, jointly with the American Geophysical Union: "Relation of Geology to the Ground-Water Problems of the Southwest."

December 30, afternoon session, jointly with the Section on Anthropology: "Early Man in North America."

December 31: "Regional Geography of the Southwest."

Members of the associated societies are urged to submit their titles and abstracts to their secretary at once to meet the requirements of the Joint Program Committee.

### AWARD OF THE WILLIAM H. NICHOLS MEDAL

DR. DUNCAN A. MACINNES, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, has been awarded the 1942 William H. Nichols Medal of the New York Section of the American Chemical Society in recognition of his "outstanding investigations on electrolytes and the development of techniques which have immeasurably enriched both the theory and practice of modern electrochemistry." His researches have contributed to the development of the glass electrode, widely used in industry. He has also made important investigations in the field of biological chemistry.

According to the statement given out by the jury of award

For many years Dr. MacInnes has been engaged in fundamental researches on the theory of solutions, and his precise studies have furnished much of the information which we now possess on the behavior of electrolytic solutions. He was one of the pioneers in studying the properties of the glass electrode and in establishing the conditions under which this very useful device may be used for the precise measurement of hydrogen ion concentration.

On the basis of these studies the electrode is now a recognized and dependable device which finds wide industrial use. More recently, Dr. MacInnes and his associates at the institute have turned their interest to the motion of biologically important solutions in an electric field and their experimental investigations in electrophoretic phenomena have greatly increased our knowledge of the protein content of the blood serum. These more recent investigations and the successful results are largely based on Dr. MacInnes's earlier studies on simpler inorganic systems.

The presentation will be made at a meeting of the New York Section on March 6. Founded in 1902 by the late Dr. William H. Nichols, a charter member of the American Chemical Society and chairman of the board of the Allied Chemical and Dye Corporation, the medal is awarded annually to "stimulate original research in chemistry."

Previous recipients of the award were: John M. Nelson, Phoebus A. Levene, Joel H. Hildebrand, Irving Langmuir, James Bryant Conant, Frank C. Whitmore, William M. Clark, Charles A. Kraus, Hugh S. Taylor, Julius A. Nieuwland, Gilbert N. Lewis, Charles L. Parsons, Claude S. Hudson, Marston T. Bogert, Henry C. Sherman, Roger Adams, William A. Noyes, Thomas Midgley, Samuel C. Lind, Leo H. Baekeland, H. C. P. Weber, Edward C. Franklin, M. A. Rosanoff, C. W. Easley, T. B. Johnson, Charles James, M. H. Walker, M. B. Bishop, E. B. Voorhees, William L. Evans, Moses Gomberg, Samuel E. Sheppard, John A. Wilson and Dr. Linus Pauling, head of the division of chemistry and chemical engineering at California Institute of Technology.

Members of the 1942 medal jury in addition to Professor MacTavish were Professor Louis P. Hammett, of Columbia University; Dr. Robert Calvert, consulting chemist and chemical patent attorney; Professor Ralph H. Muller, of New York University, chairman of the section, and Dr. Cornelia T. Snell, secretary.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

AT the thirty-second annual dinner of the Radio Club of America on November 1, the fourth award of the Armstrong Medal for "outstanding contributions to the radio art" was made to Harry William Houck. The citation reads: "After assisting at the birth of the superheterodyne in Armstrong's (Major Edwin H. Armstrong, of Columbia University, inventor of the superheterodyne receiver and father of the current FM system) wartime laboratory in Paris he designed the second-harmonic superheterodyne, first type to be placed in large commercial production. Radio receivers operating from alternating current power lines leaned heavily on the technique, designs and inventions of the medalist."

A TESTIMONIAL dinner in honor of Dr. George H. Meeker, dean emeritus of the Graduate School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania, was given on September 29, marking his retirement as dean. Dr. George M. Coates was chairman, and Dr. George Morris Piersol, toastmaster. Dr. Thomas S. Gates, president, and Dr. Alfred N. Richards, vice-president for medical affairs, spoke for the university; Dr. William R. Nicholson for the Graduate School, and Dr. George E. Pfahler for the Medico-Chirurgical College of Philadelphia, where Dr. Meeker taught before the school was taken over by the university.

DR. GILBERT H. CADY, senior geologist and head of the Coal Division of the Illinois State Geological Survey, was honored at a testimonial dinner in Urbana on the evening of September 27, immediately following the close of the fiftieth anniversary celebration of the University of Chicago, in which Dr. Cady had led the symposium on coal geology. The occasion was in recognition of his thirty-five years of service