the end of the second term of the mayor's incumbency in office, so that he might return to his duties as Dean of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University on January 1, 1942.

To the difficult task of Commissioner of Hospitals, Dr. Rappleye brought his recognized administrative ability, vigor, persuasive powers and a high civic spirit. These qualifications blended very well with the pattern which had been developed by his predecessor and as a result the work of the Department of Hospitals has continued on a high plane to the benefit of the sick, of medical education and of community relationships.

In view of the pending resignation of Dr. Rappleye, the New York Academy of Medicine wishes to go on record as urging him to continue as Commissioner of Hospitals, particularly in view of the exceptionally heavy responsibilities which the Department of Hospitals is to face during this period of national peril.

Copies of the resolution were addressed to President Butler, of Columbia University, and to the mayor, Fiorello La Guardia.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

THE American Society of Mechanical Engineers at its annual dinner on December 3 conferred five honorary memberships, which were presented by William A. Hanley, the retiring president. These were Clarence Decatur Howe, minister of munitions and supplies for Canada; Rear Admiral Samuel M. Robinson, chief of the Bureau of Ships, U. S. Navy; Major General Charles M. Wesson, chief of ordnance, U. S. Army; Leon Pratt Alford, chairman of the department of administrative engineering, New York University, and Aurel Stodola, formerly professor of mechanical engineering, Technical University, Zurich, Switzerland.

James W. Parker, vice-president in charge of engineering of the Detroit Edison Company, took office as president on December 5. He succeeds William A. Hanley as president of the society.

Four newly elected vice-presidents and three new managers of the society also took office as members of the council. The vice-presidents, who will serve until December, 1943, are Clarke F. Freeman, of Providence, R. I., senior vice-president and engineer of the Manufacturers Mutual Fire Insurance Company; Clair B. Peck, managing editor of *Railway Mechanical Engineering;* W. H. Winterrowd, vice-president in charge of operations, Baldwin Locomotive Works, Eddystone, Pa., and W. R. Woolrich, dean of the College of Engineering of the University of Texas.

The new managers, elected until December, 1944, are; William G. Christy, smoke abatement engineer of Hudson County, N. J.; Herbert L. Eggleston, manager of gas and refining departments, Gilmore Oil Company, Los Angeles, and Thomas S. McEwan, consulting management engineer of Chicago.

AWARD TO THE DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY

THE 1941 Award for Chemical Engineering Achievement was presented on December 2 at a dinner at the University Club, New York City, to the Dow Chemical Company, Midland, Mich., for its pioneering research in the recovery of metallic magnesium from sea water. The presentation was made by Colonel Alfred H. White, chairman of the award committee and head of the department of chemical and metallurgical engineering of the University of Michigan. The award is presented biennially by the McGraw-Hill magazine, *Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering,* to the company which in the opinion of the Committee of Award has contributed the most meritorious advance to the industry and profession. In presenting the award to Dr. Dow, Colonel White said:

> The company which receives this award has a wonderful record of past achievement in development of processes and also in development of men. The award is made for a very recent specific achievement, but this achievement would not have been possible without the organization built up through many years.
>
> Since 1940 this company has built on the coast of Texas a huge plant constructed primarily to extract metallic magnesium from the ocean water, but also to manufacture bromine, ethylene bromide and a number of other chemicals. This is the first plant in the world to extract metal commercially from ocean water. It is for this specific achievement that the 1940 Award for Chemical Engineering Achievement is conferred.

Dr. Willard H. Dow, president and chairman of the board of the company, accepted the bronze plaque symbolizing the award in behalf of his company. S. D. Kirkpatrick, editor of *Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering* and president-elect of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, acted as toastmaster and introduced the speakers. The dinner was held in connection with the eighteenth National Exposition of the Chemical Industries, at Grand Central Palace.

The award was established in 1933 and is presented biennially in recognition to group effort and accomplishment of a company rather than to an individual. Previous recipients of the award are:

> 1933, Carbide and Carbon Chemicals Corporation for the development of synthetic organic chemicals from petroleum and natural gas. 1935, Organic Chemicals Department of the du Pont Company, for the development of synthetic rubber from acetylene and synthetic camphor from American turpentine. 1937, Standard Oil Development Company for synthetic aviation fuels and related products from petroleum. 1941, the Dow Chemical

Company for the development of a successful process for recovering metallic magnesium from ocean water—the first metal to be obtained in commercial quantities from the ocean in the history of the world.

AWARDS OF THE CHARLES FREDERICK CHANDLER MEDAL

AWARDS of the Charles Frederick Chandler Medal of Columbia University have been made to two brothers, Dr. Robert R. Williams, chemical director of the Bell Telephone Laboratories of New York, and Professor Roger J. Williams, of the University of Texas.

Dr. Robert R. Williams was cited for "his years of work on the isolation of Vitamin B_1 and his contributions to the elucidation of its chemical structure." Vitamin B_1, which he synthesized and named thiamin, is the antineuritic beriberi vitamin, vital to nerve health and life.

The award to Professor Roger J. Williams was made in recognition of his discovery of pantothenic acid, powerful regulator of growth popularly known as "the acid of life" and for his contributions to the knowledge of the Vitamin B complex.

This is the first double award of the medal since it was established in 1910 in honor of Dr. Charles Frederick Chandler, professor of chemistry at Columbia University, pioneer in industrial chemistry. The formal presentation will take place in February at a ceremony in Havemeyer Hall, at which each of the 1942 recipients will receive a medal and each will deliver a lecture.

Dr. Robert R. Williams, in addition to his work on Vitamin B_1, has contributed to industrial chemistry through his leadership of an organization of 140 workers in the Bell Telephone Laboratories, of which he has been chemical director for the last seventeen years.

Pantothenic acid, for the discovery of which Dr. Roger J. Williams received the award, is one of the most important components of the vague "bios" of the period twenty years earlier. It represents the first example of a compound whose structure has been elucidated in spite of the fact that its isolation in pure form has so far not been possible.

In investigating bios Dr. Williams, working with the purest material he could obtain, devised new modes of characterization of the substance in terms of physicochemical and physiological properties which furnished the clues for the later verification of its structure by synthesis at the Merck Laboratories with his collaboration. This work led to the exploration of many other plant growth stimulants to which he gave the name "nutrilites."

Professor Arthur W. Thomas was chairman of the Chandler Award Committee. Other members were Professors Leo H. Baekeland and Arthur W. Hixson. There have been seventeen previous recipients of the medal. The last award was made in 1939 to Thomas H. Chilton, director of the technical division of the engineering department of E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company at Wilmington.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE John Fritz Medal for 1942 has been awarded to Dr. Everette Lee DeGolyer, consulting petroleum engineer, of Dallas, Texas, and president of the Felmont Corporation, in recognition of his work on the application of geophysical exploration to the search for oil fields. The award, which is sponsored by the four leading national engineering societies, will be presented to Dr. DeGolyer at a dinner of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City, on January 14.

DR. TOM DOUGLAS SPIES, of the School of Medicine of the University of Cincinnati and Hillman Hospital, Birmingham, Ala., in recognition of his work with nicotinic acid, was presented at a meeting on December 8 in Washington with the Award of Distinction of the American Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association. This award is made annually to an investigator who, in the opinion of the committee, has made a fundamental contribution to public health in the field of drug therapy. Last year Dr. Perrin Long, of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, received the award for his study of the use of the sulfa drugs.

THE Lister Medal for 1942, which is given in recognition of distinguished contributions to surgical science, has been awarded to Dr. Evarts A. Graham, professor of surgery in Washington University, and he will deliver the Lister Memorial Lectures in 1942, or later, under the auspices of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

THE council of the Royal Horticultural Society, London, has made the following awards for the year 1941: Victoria Medal of Honor.—E. L. Hillier, for his work in the introduction of new and rare plants. Associateship of Honor.—W. D. Besant, director of parks and botanic gardens, Glasgow; G. F. Hallett, head gardener at Lilford Hall, Oundle, Peterborough; F. Streeter, head gardener at Petworth Park, Sussex; H. Windibank, head gardener at Frensham Hall, Haslemere. Veitch Memorial Medals and Prizes.—B. Y. Morrison, Washington, D. C., gold medal for