at the School of Hygiene and Public Health, the Johns Hopkins University.

Harold E. Babbitt, professor of sanitary engineering at the University of Illinois.

F. C. Bishopp, assistant chief of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

V. M. Ehlers, chief engineer of the Texas State Board of Health, Austin.

Gordon M. Fair, professor of sanitary engineering at Harvard University.

H. A. Whittaker, chief engineer of the division of sanitation, State Department of Health, Minneapolis.

In the several meetings to date, the committee has devoted major efforts to the problem of procurement and training of the large number of sanitary engineering personnel required for essential war activities. In addition to the needs for sanitary engineers as commissioned officers in the Sanitary Corps of the Army, the U. S. Public Health Service and the Corps of Engineers utilize sanitary engineers on a civil service status.

The committee has also considered the sanitary engineering functions performed by the Sanitary Corps of the Army with a view toward providing constructive suggestions on the many problems occasioned by the war, including the safeguarding of army water supplies, the disposal of waste and malaria control.

The program covering future activities of the committee includes a continuation of its present work on the availability of and the demand for sanitary engineering personnel, the orderly procurement of and assignment to military, semi-military and civilian agencies of trained sanitary engineers, information on military sanitary engineering problems and their solution and a consideration of postwar needs for sanitary engineers and the fields in which they may be most profitably utilized.

The committee has had strong liaison representation from the War Department by the presence in the deliberations of Colonels Simmons, Hardenbergh, Prentiss and Robinson; from the Navy by Admiral Stephenson and Commanders Cushing, Tipton and Burton; from the U. S. Public Health Service by J. K. Hoskins, and from the Selective Service in the person of Major Robert A. Bier. The National Research Council representatives in the deliberations have been Drs. Weed, Davison and Forbes and Colonel Larkey.

PRESENTATION OF THE MELCHETT MEDAL

AS already noted in SCIENCE the Melchett Medal, awarded annually by the Institute of Fuel, England, for outstanding achievement in work involving the scientific preparation or use of fuel, was presented this year to Arno C. Fieldner, chief of the Fuels and Explosives Service, U. S. Bureau of Mines. Dr. Fieldner was the second American to be so honored.

Chemical and Engineering News gives the following account of the presentation:

Because Dr. Fieldner was unable to go to England to receive the medal, he gave his lecture, "The Analysis and Testing of Coal in Relation to Its Properties and Utilization," in the Bureau of Mines sound-film studio in Pittsburgh, Pa., where it was recorded on a 16-mm film. The film was sent to England and by this means Dr. Fieldner was able to deliver *in absentia* the Melchett Memorial Lecture at the opening meeting of the institute on October 13, 1942. The medal was received formally at this time by a member of the American Embassy, who in turn transmitted it to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and it was formally presented to Dr. Fieldner at the annual banquet of that society in New York on December 3, 1942. The presentation was made by Arthur Selvey, son of the president of the Institute of Fuel, who is an engineer with the Detroit Edison Company.

This unique procedure was received with enthusiasm by the members of the Institute of Fuels, who were given an introduction to the author by photographic proxy while listening to an address of considerable interest, and who appreciated the care with which the film had been prepared.

AWARDS OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

AT the ninetieth meeting of the American Society of Civil Engineers, which was held in New York City on January 20 and 21, the following honors were conferred:

The Norman Medal to Karl Terzaghi, lecturer, Harvard University, for paper entitled "General Wedge Theory of Earth Pressure."

The J. James R. Croes Medal to Charles F. Ruff, sanitary engineer, Caribbean Architect-Engineer, New York, N. Y., for paper entitled "Maximum Probable Floods on Pennsylvania Streams."

The Thomas Fitch Rowland prize to Shortridge Hardesty, consulting engineer, Waddell and Hardesty, New York, N. Y., and Alfred Hedefine, associate engineer, Waddell and Hardesty, New York, N. Y., for paper entitled "Superstructure of Theme Building of New York World's Fair."

The James Laurie Prize to W. Watters Pagon, consulting engineer, Baltimore, for paper entitled "Transatlantic Seaplane Base, Baltimore, Maryland."

The Arthur M. Wellington Prize to William J. Wilgus, Ascutney, Vt., for paper entitled "The Grand Central Terminal in Perspective."

The Collingwood Prize for Juniors to John F. Curtin, senior civil engineer, the Texas Company, New York, N. Y., for paper entitled "Bridge and Tunnel Approaches."

The Rudolph Hering Medal to Robert T. Regester, consulting engineer, Baltimore, for paper entitled "Problems and Trends in Activated Sludge Practice."

The Construction Engineering Prize to Rear-Admiral Frederic R. Harris, U.S. Navy (retired), consulting en-

gineer, New York, N. Y., for paper appearing in June, 1942, issue of *Civil Engineering* entitled "Evolution of Tremie-Placed Concrete Dry Docks."

The Daniel W. Mead Prize to Alfred C. Ingersoll, research engineer, The Linde Air Products Company, Tonawanda, N. Y., for the best paper submitted by a student on "Ethical Standards and How Best They Can Be Developed."

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

THE national technical meeting of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers will be held in the Engineering Societies Building from January 25 to 29.

According to a statement made by Floyd A. Lewis, acting editor of *Electrical Engineering,* emphasis at this year's meeting will be on war problems. Several of the technical sessions and conferences will concern conservation of critical materials through more efficient utilization of such materials as are used on electrical systems. In addition to the twenty-one technical sessions, sub-sessions and conferences, there will be a general session on Wednesday morning, January 27, devoted to engineering man power in the war effort. Also at this session, which will be presided over by the president of the institute, H. S. Osborne of New York, the Alfred Noble Prize will be presented to George W. Dunlap.

Another feature of the meeting will be the presentation of three engineering awards at a special session held on Thursday evening. The Edison Medal, highest award of the institute, will be presented to Major Edwin H. Armstrong, professor of electrical engineering, Columbia University, who has contributed so much to radio. The John Fritz Medal, awarded jointly by a group of national engineering societies including the institute, will be presented to Dr. Willis R. Whitney, vice-president in charge of research of the General Electric Company, Schenectady, N. Y. The Hoover Medal, also a joint award, will be presented to Dr. Gerard Swope, president of the General Electric Company, New York, N. Y. Following the medal-presentation ceremonies, Dr. George C. Southworth, of the Bell Telephone Laboratories, will deliver an address entitled "Ultrahigh Frequencies." This should be of especial interest in view of the wide application of ultrahigh frequencies or so-called "microwaves," in the present war.

The American Institute of Electrical Engineers has the largest membership of any of the leading national engineering societies, numbering 19,916; there are 72 local sections in major North American cities, and 124 student branches in engineering schools. The winter national technical meeting is one of three national and several regional meetings held each year for the purpose of reviewing and discussing important technical and related developments. Emphasis at all these meetings for the current year is on war problems. Registered attendance at recent winter meetings has exceeded 1,600, and there is every reason to believe that the attendance this year will be up to its usual standard.

CANCELLATION OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN PHYSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

THE American Physiological Society has issued the following statement:

For the first time in the history of our society it has seemed wise to cancel the annual meeting. Action in this direction was first taken by the executive committee of the federation, which voted 11 to 2 in favor of cancellation of the meeting of the federation to be held in Cleveland from April 6 to 10. On referring this matter to the individual councils of the several societies, the action was ratified by a majority of each of the separate councils. Our own council further voted (5 to 2) not to hold an annual meeting independently of the federation.

The chief reasons given for this decision were (1) the difficulty of transportation and the request by Mr. Eastman, Coordinator of Defense Transportation, "that conventions should not be held unless they are related to the war effort." (2) The advice of the Science Advisory Committee of the National Resources Planning Board "that meetings not closely connected with the war effort should be postponed" and the suggestion "that some large associations may find it advantageous to organize their annual meeting in regional gatherings rather than in a single meeting in one place." (3) The difficulty of making our meeting a material contribution to the war effort because of (a) confidential nature of much if not most of the research work being carried on by our members, (b) preoccupation of potential speakers with other more essential war work, and (c) added teaching burdens in all our laboratories.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. PERRIN H. LONG, professor of preventive medicine at the Johns Hopkins Medical School, has received the award of the Southern Medical Association for original work by one of its members. The award was made in recognition of his studies on the sulfonamides.

THE Octave Chanute Award of the Institute of Aeronautical Sciences has been made to A. Lewis MacClain, aircraft engine test pilot and engineer of the Pratt and Whitney Aircraft Division, of the United Aircraft Corporation, East Hartford, Conn., in recognition of the development of the engine torque