so that there will be ample water and rail transportation available. In addition the river will afford a good supply of water for laboratory use.

The new building, in the general shape of the letter T, will vary from two to five stories in height and will include 200,000 square feet of laboratory working space in addition to an auditorium seating 300, a dining room, conference rooms, etc. One third of the laboratory space will be devoted to service facilities, machine shops and specialty shops such as glass blowers, all in a convenient central location.

Walls between rooms will be movable, capable of being placed at 18-inch intervals so that rooms may easily be made large or small as desired. Benches and all furnishings will be standardized so that they can easily be shifted from place to place as the need arises. The building will be air-conditioned throughout. Wires and pipes carrying various kinds and voltages of electricity, compressed air, suction, illuminating gas, hydrogen, oxygen, etc., will interlace the building whence they can be brought into any room.

The high elevation of the site above the river will afford many advantages, for example, in experiments with radar and high frequency jet engines. The rocky cliff foundation will be useful in conducting experiments with x-rays. These are being produced at a hundred million volts in the present laboratory, and further increases are expected.

THE BIOMETRIC BULLETIN

THE Biometrics Section of the American Statistical Association has issued the first number of the *Biometric Bulletin,* which it is planned to issue monthly. According to the official statement, the *Bulletin* will be developed to meet the needs of the membership of the association. Many features have been planned primarily for the novice. There will be a column of queries to which members are invited to submit questions which can be answered briefly. Questions concerning statistics, for example, can be answered here authoritatively.

Larger problems will be covered by short expository articles written on invitation by qualified professional biometricians. Review articles will emphasize the applications of statistics in substantive fields such as ecology, entomology, forestry, plant breeding, bacteriology and many others. The first of these, on uses of statistics in medicine, appears in the first issue. Although few of the papers read at the meetings of the section can be published in full, abstracts of them, usually in advance of their final publication, will appear.

The section will continue to hold joint meetings with biological as well as with statistical societies, and the *Bulletin* will carry notices of these programs. News items will enable the reader to follow the activities of the members as well as topics of biometric interest. Short articles will report on American educational institutions which offer courses or conferences on biometrics, both at the amateur and at the professional level. Many professional biometricians have been drawn actively into war projects. As soon as possible the war contributions of this group will be reported.

THE AMERICAN GEOPHYSICAL UNION

THE twenty-sixth annual meeting of the American Geophysical Union was held in the Hall of Government, George Washington University, on May 31 and June 1.

The Section of Hydrology held four sessions, including a round table on the afternoon of June 1. The Section of Meteorology held two sessions on May 31, morning and afternoon; the afternoon session was held jointly with the District of Columbia Branch of the American Meteorological Society. Each of the other sections held one session, either on the morning or the afternoon of the two dates indicated. The total registration was about five hundred and all sessions were very well attended.

The session of the Section of Terrestrial Magnetism and Electricity attracted especially large attendance on the morning of May 31. On the afternoon of May 31 the session of the Section of Volcanology attracted a large group. Among the interesting features of this meeting was the showing of the moving picture of the Volcano Parícutin. Some of the other papers presented at this same session bore on the same subject and included a number of interesting slides. At all the sessions eighty-seven papers and twelve Research Committee reports were given or read by title.

The business session was held on the afternoon of June 1, at which seven resolutions were passed. The seventh award of the William Bowie Medal was made in absentia to Dr. Jacob A. B. Bjerknes, chairman of the department of meteorology, University of California at Los Angeles.

Leonard M. Murphy, of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, was elected secretary of the Section of Seismology. No other elections were held.

Announcement was made concerning the last will and testament of the late Dr. Robert E. Horton, of Voorheesville, New York. Under this will, much of the residual estate will ultimately be given to the National Research Council for use by the American Geophysical Union in the furtherance of research in hydrology.

The executive committee of the union held a meeting on the afternoon of June 1, immediately following the business meeting of the union.