

it from others, I desire to add a few words about the man as I have found him through the acquaintance of many years.

There never was a more loyal, a more devoted, a more sensitive spirit. His attitude of mind was puritanic in its simplicity and in its practises, and, left to himself, he could never suspect another of indirectness or duplicity—a quality of which he contained not a grain. When confronted by the broader bearings of his science and the natural sequences of its greater propositions, he held himself somewhat carefully aloof; it seemed as though the youthful bendings of the twig inclined him away from paths he would not follow. Yet this simplicity of heart, which would not let him go far a-field, also made him extraordinarily conscientious in his scientific work. It would not be fair to him to say that he had a genius for details, but it would be eminently right to assert that he sought intimately and faithfully for the exact construction of every observation he made so far as that had to do with the theme in hand. This mental method led him to precision of manner, gave him a certain formality which was seldom dismissed under the most informal circumstances. Dr. Prosser's physical address was very pleasing, but his natural reticence, his precision of thought and his fear of an inexact or loose statement made him a hesitant speaker, though a speaker who was always punctiliously guarding a jewel of highest worth—the truth. Added to this trait, which we may well count a virtue, was his absolute fealty to, first, his science, then to his friends. For those whom he knew to be his friends no sacrifice was too great, no defense too vigorous; from them no defection was thinkable. The word of personal criticism seldom passed his lips. If he had suffered an injustice, or an inadequate commentary, it was dismissed with a ripple of a deprecating smile, as though in pity of himself. His determinations of fact he was prepared to defend and to claim his title in them, and his high-strung temperament made him revolt when he saw the credit for his determinations complacently or in ignorance absorbed by another. To this he

would not become inured, as almost every investigator in science must; it was to him a rape of his golden fleece.

Out of the quarry stones of his home land he had laboriously built the house of his desires; few know with what struggles against untoward circumstance, with what patient tugging at an unspoken load with which a churlish fate had saddled him. He did build the house of his spirit's desire and has left behind many who have seen far enough within its doors to honor his accomplishment, lament his sorrows and his unhappy end, and to cherish his memory.

Professor Prosser was buried in the Rural Cemetery at Albany where the members of the New York Geological Survey and representatives of Union University faculty and corporation gathered to pay their last respects to the poor suffocated body which had enshrined so pure a spirit.

JOHN M. CLARKE

#### THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

THE first meeting of the National Research Council was held in New York City on September 20, 1916. Dr. M. I. Pupin, as temporary chairman, called the meeting to order at 3.10 P.M., and directed a roll-call of the members of the council. There were present the following members: Messrs. Carty, Dunn, Goss, Hale, Herschel, Holmes, Keen, Manning, Marvin, Millikan, Noyes, Pickering, Pupin, Rand, Skinner, Squier, Stratton, Swasey and Vaughan.

The temporary chairman then called for nominations for permanent chairman. Dr. George E. Hale was nominated and unanimously elected. Dr. Hale then took the chair and presided for the remainder of the meeting. Dr. Charles D. Walcott was elected first vice-chairman, and Mr. Gano Dunn second vice-chairman.

Dr. Hale, as chairman of the organizing committee of the council, first announced an agreement between the National Academy of Sciences and the Engineering Foundation by which the foundation has placed its funds at the disposal of the council for a period of one

year and has given the services of its secretary, Dr. Cary T. Hutchinson, to the National Research Council, to serve as its secretary. Dr. Hale announced that in accordance with this agreement the National Academy of Sciences has appointed Dr. Hutchinson, secretary of the National Research Council. Dr. Hutchinson was present and acted as secretary to the meeting.

The chairman then gave an extended account of the work done by the organizing committee during the summer months, dwelling particularly upon his trip to England and France, and upon the results that have been reached there by similar organizations of the men of science.

At the conclusion of the chairman's remarks the organization of the council was discussed; and the motion was made that an executive committee, to consist of a chairman and nine members, be appointed by the chair, with the chairman of the council and president of the academy as additional members *ex-officio*, this committee to have full authority in the interim between meetings of the council to carry out the purposes described in the preliminary report of the organizing committee (published in the August 25 number of *SCIENCE*), it being understood that, in carrying out the general plan of work of the council as there outlined, the executive committee shall not be limited to a narrow interpretation of the objects, but shall have full power to undertake similar or related work, even though not specifically included in that report. This motion was carried unanimously.

The chairman then requested the members of the council to express their views on the proposed work of the council and in particular to make suggestions covering definite lines of work that might fall within the sphere of activity of the council. A discussion then took place, participated in by nearly all the members of the council.

Dr. Millikan then presented a preliminary report from the committee on the Newlands Bill, which provides for the appropriation by the government of \$15,000 annually to each of the states, to be applied to research in engi-

neering and applied science. After discussion the report was referred back to the committee for further consideration, with instructions that it be then referred to the executive committee of the Research Council.

A recess was then taken to enable the members of the council to attend a dinner given in their honor at the University Club by Dr. Hale. The council was again called to order at 9.30 P.M. by the chairman. The members present then discussed special features of the work that the council might undertake.

The chairman announced the appointment of the following six members of the executive committee: Messrs. J. J. Carty, E. G. Conklin, Gano Dunn, A. A. Noyes, M. I. Pupin and V. C. Vaughan. He stated that the other four members would be appointed after further consideration. A vote of thanks to the chairman for his invaluable services was unanimously adopted. After further general discussion the council adjourned.

Two meetings of the executive committee were held in New York on September 21 and 29, 1916. At these meetings business was transacted as follows:

Dr. J. J. Carty was elected chairman; and Dr. C. T. Hutchinson, secretary of the committee. It was voted that the terms of the present members of the research council and of the executive committee be deemed to expire on January 1, 1918.

The following resolution was adopted, expressing the general policy to be followed by the council in the promotion of research.

*Resolved*, that the efforts of the Research Council shall be uniformly directed to the encouragement of individual initiative in research work, and that cooperation and organization, as understood by the Research Council, shall not be deemed to involve restrictions or limitations of any kind to be placed upon research workers.

The following resolution was adopted, inviting the American Association for the Advancement of Science to cooperate with the Research Council.

*Resolved*, that the American Association for the Advancement of Science be informed that the National Research Council has been organized by the National Academy of Sciences at the request of

the President of the United States for the purpose of bringing into cooperation existing governmental, educational, industrial and other research organizations, with the object of encouraging the investigation of natural phenomena, the increased use of scientific research in the development of American industries, the employment of scientific methods in strengthening the national defense, and such other applications of science as will promote the national security and welfare, and that the association, which has itself established the Committee of One Hundred on Research, be invited to cooperate with the Research Council in the promotion of research, and that to this end it be asked to appoint a committee of three to meet with a similar committee of the Research Council to consider how much cooperation can be made most effective.

As members of this committee on behalf of the Research Council, Dr. Welch, president of the Academy, and Messrs. Conklin and Noyes were appointed.

The following committees were also appointed:

A Committee on Research in Educational Institutions, consisting of G. E. Hale, chairman, J. S. Ames, R. H. Chittenden, J. M. Coulter, G. N. Lewis, G. H. Parker, Harold Penders, C. R. Van Hise and F. J. E. Woodbridge; this committee to consider general plans for the promotion of research in educational institutions, and to have power to arrange for local research committees in each institution.

A Committee on the Promotion of Industrial Research, Dr. J. J. Carty, chairman, with functions in its field somewhat similar to those of the Committee on Research in Educational Institutions.

A Committee on a National Census of Research, Dr. Stratton, chairman, to prepare a national census of equipment for research, of the men engaged in it, and of the lines of investigation pursued in cooperating government bureaus, educational institutions, research foundations and industrial research laboratories.

Mr. Dunn reported that the United Engineering Society had granted for a period of one year from October 1, 1916, free of assessment, two rooms in its building for the use of

the Engineering Foundation, to serve as the New York Office of the National Research Council, these rooms being those recently vacated by the Naval Consulting Board.

It was voted to recommend to the president of the academy that Marston T. Bogert, of Columbia University, Russell H. Chittenden, of Yale University, and Raymond Pearl, of the Maine Experiment Station, be invited to become members of the council.

It was voted that joint committees on research in various branches of science be formed in cooperation with the corresponding national scientific societies.

A more complete account of the actions and discussions of the Research Council and of its executive committee will be found in the October number of the *Proceedings* of the National Academy of Sciences.

CARY T. HUTCHINSON,  
*Secretary*

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

THE National Research Council was formally organized at a meeting held in New York City on September 20, 1916. It was established by the National Academy of Sciences at the request of the President of the United States. The members of this council have been appointed by the president of the academy, after consultation with the presidents of leading national scientific societies. The representatives of the government were appointed by the President of the United States. The council is to be gradually enlarged by the addition of new members who are to serve as chairman of important committees or who are otherwise to engage in some special capacity in the work of the council.

The organization of the council is at present as follows:

#### OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

*Chairman*, George E. Hale.

*Vice-chairmen*, Charles D. Walcott; Gano Dunn.

*Secretary*, Cary T. Hutchinson.

*Executive Committee*, John J. Carty (chairman), William H. Welch (ex-officio), George E. Hale (ex-officio), Edwin G. Conklin, Gano Dunn, Arthur A.

Noyes, Raymond Pearl, Michael I. Pupin, S. W. Stratton, V. C. Vaughan, and others to be appointed.

## MEMBERS

DR. L. H. BAEKELAND, Yonkers, N. Y.  
 DR. MARSTON T. BOGERT, professor of organic chemistry, Columbia University.  
 DR. JOHN A. BRASHEAR, Allegheny, Pa.  
 DR. JOHN J. CARTY, chief engineer, American Telephone & Telegraph Co.  
 DR. RUSSELL H. CHITTENDEN, director, Sheffield Scientific School, Yale University.  
 DR. EDWIN G. CONKLIN, professor of zoology, Princeton University.  
 DR. JOHN M. COULTER, professor of botany, University of Chicago.  
 MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM CROZIER, chief of ordnance, U. S. A.  
 MR. GANO DUNN, president, The J. G. White Engineering Corporation.  
 DR. SIMON FLEXNER, director, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research.  
 BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM CRAWFORD GORGAS, surgeon general, U. S. A.  
 DR. W. F. M. GOSS, dean of engineering, University of Illinois.  
 DR. GEORGE E. HALE, director, Mt. Wilson Solar Observatory.  
 MR. CLEMENS HERSCHEL, president, American Society of Civil Engineers.  
 DR. WILLIAM H. HOLMES, curator, United States National Museum.  
 DR. W. W. KEEN, president, American Philosophical Society.  
 MR. VAN H. MANNING, director, Bureau of Mines.  
 PROFESSOR CHARLES F. MARVIN, chief, United States Weather Bureau.  
 PROFESSOR A. A. MICHELSON, director, Ryerson Physical Laboratory, University of Chicago.  
 DR. ROBERT A. MILLIKAN, professor of physics, University of Chicago.  
 DR. ARTHUR A. NOYES, director, research laboratory of physical chemistry, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.  
 DR. RAYMOND PEARL, director, Maine Agricultural Experiment Station.  
 PROFESSOR E. C. PICKERING, director, Harvard College Observatory.  
 DR. MICHAEL I. PUPIN, professor of electro-mechanics, Columbia University.  
 MR. CHARLES F. RAND, president, United Engineering Society.  
 DR. THEODORE W. RICHARDS, director, Walcott

Gibbs Memorial Laboratory, Harvard University.

MR. C. E. SKINNER, director, research laboratory, Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Co.  
 LIEUTENANT COLONEL GEORGE O. SQUIER, chief of aviation, U. S. A.  
 DR. S. W. STRATTON, director, Bureau of Standards.  
 MR. AMBROSE SWASEY, Cleveland, Ohio.  
 CHIEF CONSTRUCTOR DAVID W. TAYLOR, U. S. Navy.  
 DR. ELIHU THOMSON, Swampscott, Mass.  
 DR. C. R. VAN HISE, president, American Association for the Advancement of Science.  
 DR. VICTOR C. VAUGHAN, director, medical research laboratory, University of Michigan.  
 DR. CHARLES D. WALCOTT, secretary, Smithsonian Institution.  
 DR. WILLIAM H. WELCH, president, National Academy of Sciences.  
 DR. W. R. WHITNEY, director, research laboratory, General Electric Co.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

ON the occasion of the celebration of the 150th anniversary of Rutgers College the degree of doctor of science was conferred on Dr. J. L. R. Morgan, of the class of '92, professor of physical chemistry in Columbia University; on Dr. Peter Cooper Hewitt, of New York City, and on Chuzaburo Shiba, professor of mechanical engineering in the Imperial University of Tokyo.

THE Italian Society of Sciences has awarded its gold medal for 1915 to Professor P. Calapso, of the University of Messina, for his researches in geometry.

EDWARD RAY WEIDLEIN has been appointed associate director of the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research of the University of Pittsburgh. Mr. Weidlein has held an industrial fellowship since 1910, and during the past four years has been in active charge of the hydrometallurgical investigations of the institute.

MR. VICTOR A. BEEDE, assistant state forester of New Hampshire, has been elected executive secretary of the New York State Forestry Association, with headquarters at the Chamber of Commerce Building, Syracuse, N. Y.