

formations; the Permo-Carboniferous and Permian problem, geological surveys, and a symposium on the origin of coral reefs and atolls. In connection with this symposium Professor Sir Edgeworth David, who presided at the Sydney sessions and who is widely and lovingly known as the grand man of Australia, presented a most important report on the Royal Society's borings at Funafuti. The half-cores from this boring and other illustrative exhibits were displayed.

A dramatic event of the meeting was the arrival at Sydney on the eve of the meeting in that city of the new United States scout cruiser "Milwaukee," equipped with the sonic depth finder and prepared to exhibit a new set of soundings taken on its voyage across the Pacific from Puget Sound. Her commander, Captain W. C. Asserson, came as a delegate to the congress from the United States Navy Department and presented a paper in joint session on the principle of construction and use of the depth finder. On his invitation the Australian Navy Department sent an officer from Melbourne to attend a demonstration, and on like invitation the Ministry of Trade and Customs sent for the same purpose Captain John K. Davis, the commissioner of navigation and widely known as the master of vessels of Antarctic explorers. Each day during the visit of the cruiser parties from the congress were taken on board for demonstrations. A hearty vote of thanks was taken to be presented to the United States Navy Department through Captain Asserson. The friendly visit to Sydney of this modern warship, the first since that of the great fleet under Admiral Sperry, aroused much popular enthusiasm and approval.

Many resolutions of importance were passed. These related to the destruction of insect pests; to measures to prevent the early extinction of the native Pacific races; for cooperation in botanical surveys; for systematic treatment of the tectonic features; for aeroplane and other surveys of coral reef areas, and especially that of the Great Barrier Reef of Australia; for an international bureau of animal health; and for the conservation of the marine mammals of the Pacific.

It was further recommended that there be formed a permanent organization of the scientific institutions and individuals engaged in research on the scientific problems of the Pacific region, and the president of the third congress was requested to take the initial steps for this organization.

Both during and after the congress excursions of great interest were participated in by large groups of delegates, the longest being those to the Broken Hill mining district and to the Great Barrier Reef of Australia, the latter in a government vessel for a period of three weeks at the conclusion of the sessions.

Upon cordial invitation submitted by the Japanese

delegation it was decided to hold the third Pan-Pacific Science Congress in Japan in 1926. The invitation had already been accepted by the Council of the congress, but before coming before the general session for action news was received of the terrible devastation and general destruction of Tokyo and Yokohama wrought by earthquake and following seismic sea-wave. In this difficult situation the Japanese delegation decided to stand by its invitation, and the invitation was accepted with full understanding of the situation.

The hospitality of the Australians was most generous and cordial, and the over-seas delegates were warm in their praise of their hosts for their skilful management. As one who has attended many congresses of an international character, the undersigned feels warranted in saying that such generous hospitality has been seldom equaled. The sentiment found frequent expression that nothing could do so much to promote international good-will and so make for the maintenance of peace in the Pacific as meetings of this character. The United States Navy came in for much praise for the ways in which it has contributed to scientific research.

WILLIAM HERBERT HOBBS

SUOA

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### DELONZA TATE WILSON

THE death of Professor Delonza Tate Wilson, of the department of astronomy of Case School of Applied Science, Cleveland, Ohio, occurred on Friday, October 12, at the Kendall House Sanitarium, Washington, D. C., after a long illness.

A member of the faculty at Case for twenty years, Dr. Wilson did a great deal in building up the department of astronomy as well as in teaching mathematics. When the Warner and Swasey Observatory, dedicated in October 1920, was being planned, he assisted in the designing of the building and its equipment. He made a special study of ballistics and during the war conducted classes in that subject, cooperating with the Government Naval College and the Coast Artillery Division. The special astronomical research to which he gave his attention was the computation of tables of the perturbations of a group of asteroids, printed at Upsala in 1912.

Dr. Wilson was born in Clinton, N. C., soon after the close of the Civil War. He was graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1887, received his M. A. from Vanderbilt University in 1896, and his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1905. He spent a number of years as a computer in the United States Observatory at Washington, then taught for two years, 1901-1903, at the University of Cincinnati,

before coming to Case in 1903 as an assistant professor. He was made associate professor in 1911. Illness compelled him to give up his work at the end of the college year in 1921.

A brother and a sister survive him; he was unmarried. Interment was at Clinton, N. C. Dr. Wilson was a very congenial, likable man, and a splendid teacher. He was a member of Beta Theta Pi.

KARL O. THOMPSON  
*Secretary of the Faculty*

### THE FOREST RESERVES OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

REPEAL of the constitutional provision prohibiting the cutting of timber in the forest reserves of New York was advocated in a resolution passed by the executive board of the American Engineering Council of the Federated American Engineering Societies at its closing session in Rochester, N. Y., on October 13. The time has come, it was asserted, when a great volume of ripened timber should be cut both in the interest of conservation and of industry. This resolution, recommending that all the states pursue a modern forest policy, said:

The State of New York owns something over a million acres of standing timber in the Adirondacks and Catskills. A provision in the State Constitution prohibits the cutting of this timber. Trees, like other field crops, ripen and decay, and not cut, become valueless and retard the growth of healthy young trees. The authorities are powerless to prevent this large loss in a densely populated section using forest products extensively and paying heavy transportation charges on far away cuttings. The profession of forestry is being rapidly developed and modern forest methods are well known in the United States. Trees can be cut, new plantings made, fire losses reduced, and the life and producing power of the forests continued almost indefinitely if timber tracts are intelligently treated. Further, they can be made self-supporting, and made to yield increasing revenue if rationally regarded, and this without impairing their esthetic or recreational value.

The demand for forest products is increasing rapidly in the face of diminishing supplies, and costs are advancing.

It, therefore, seems an opportune time for the people of New York State and other states possessing timber reserves to adopt a modern forest policy, which will permit the care of their forests on modern scientific lines. The Federated American Engineering Societies feel that the people of New York State will gain by removing the Constitutional restrictions on timber reserves, this question coming before the voters at a referendum on November 6, so that effective protective legislation can be passed.

The state, it is believed, can safely put its forest problems in the keeping of trained foresters whose reputation depends on so maintaining the forests that they will be-

come an increasingly valuable asset, rather than a serious burden, as they are to-day.

### THE ALDRED LECTURES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

THE first of the Aldred Lectures at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, established by Mr. J. E. Aldred, who carried to a successful conclusion the immense hydro-electric development at Shawinigan Falls on the St. Maurice River in Canada, is announced for the afternoon of November 9. Mr. Gerard Swope, a technology graduate of the class of 1895, president of the General Electric Company, will deliver the first of the lectures. Other eminent industrialists and engineers are to complete the program for the first year which will consist of twelve lectures.

President Stratton has appointed Professor D. C. Jackson, head of the department of electrical engineering and Professor Vannevar Bush, in charge of graduate work in electrical engineering, to cooperate with Mr. Aldred in establishing the lectures. A number of prominent men have been invited to give papers in a schedule that is being arranged to cover the next five years. The lecturers, representing all branches of industry, come from all parts of this country, and some from Canada. The twelve lectures which will be given this year, will be open to the faculty, seniors and graduate students of the institute and to a limited number of outsiders, and will probably be published for general distribution next spring.

Mr. Aldred believes that "it will be a contribution to the engineer's training if the proposed lectures give the student an opportunity of coming in contact with men who have made an outstanding success in their various lines of undertaking, and who best illustrate the value of practical experience, coupled with technical knowledge. This contribution is put forward with the hope that it will assist the graduate student going out to take up his life's work by his having in mind at the outset of his career that the work he is to do must be a practical contribution to the problems of the day."

### THE NEW ENGLAND INTERCOLLEGIATE GEOLOGICAL EXCURSION

THE nineteenth annual New England Intercollegiate Geological Excursion was held in the vicinity of Arlington and Beverly, Massachusetts, October 12 and 13, under the leadership of Professor Alfred C. Lane, of Tufts College; Professor Charles Palache, of Harvard University, and Mr. E. E. Fairbanks. The universities and colleges represented were as follows: Harvard (15), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (9), Tufts College (6), Brown University (4), Wes-