Waterhouse, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is chairman.

The committee's collection of classified abstracts now numbers 15,300, with foreign languages translated into English. Six monographs have been issued, nine are in preparation and five more are planned. Two volumes on the alloys of iron and carbon will shortly appear. The manuscripts on the alloys of iron and chromium are 80 per cent. drafted for examination by the committee's advisers and consulting editors. The iron-nickel manuscripts are approximately 50 per cent. and 25 per cent., respectively, completed. For the iron-manganese monograph, the data have been assembled, including results of basic research conducted with the aid of the Foundation at Carnegie Institute of Technology. The literature review of the iron-vanadium monograph is almost finished. Preliminary work for the study of cast iron is progressing.

The work, on which about $125,000 has been spent, is officially described as "the most extensive search of a branch of technical literature ever undertaken" and "the most comprehensive, if not the only collection of such data in the world." In addition, the data assembled by the committee and published in its books give to the practical steel or iron maker or user a concise summary of the characteristic quality of each alloy steel or iron now being used, and an unbiased discussion of its advantages and disadvantages for each particular application. These summaries have been made possible only by searching through thousands of reports in many languages; correlating and evaluating the information and condensing it into readily usable form.

THE THIRD WORLD POWER CONFERENCE

THE third World Power Conference will be held at Washington from September 7 to 12. This is the first conference to be held in America and is the first to stress economic rather than technical problems.

The purposes of the conference are to examine the part played by power in all technical, economic, social and public bearings; to provide a forum for the interchange of data and ideas; to dramatize the rôle of power in the modern world.

The American National Committee, which is planning the conference, includes representatives of engineering and technical associations, the trade associations of the electrical, coal, gas and petroleum industries, public-utility corporations, government bodies dealing with power, technical schools, engineers, economists, leaders of labor and representatives of the consumer.

Secretary of the Interior Ickes is chairman of the American committee; Morris L. Cooke is chairman of the executive committee; O. C. Merrill is director of the conference, and Dr. William F. Durand will be chairman.

As many as seven hundred official members are expected to be present from Europe alone, and some 3,000 altogether may be in attendance. There will be a special effort to secure a large attendance from Latin America. The English, French, German and Spanish languages will be used.

So much stress was laid on technical matters at previous conferences that, in response to a very general desire, the program for the Washington conference will approach the power problem from the economic view-point. This decision was due in a considerable degree to the wide-spread feeling that our economic and social progress has lagged behind our technological development. The general topic of the Washington conference will be "National Power Economy," which will be discussed in relation to: Its physical and statistical basis; its technical, economic and social trends; the relation thereto of the fuel-producing, processing and distribution industries, and of electric and gas utilities; practices regulation; national and regional planning of power development and use; conservation of fuel and water resources; rationalization of the distribution of gas and electricity, and a national power and resources policy.

But the technical aspects of power production and utilization will by no means be neglected. The program of the second congress on large dams, to be held concurrently with the power conference, will be strictly technical, including a study of special cements; design and waterproofing of shrinkage, contraction and expansion joints; study of the facing of dams, dam foundations and earth dams in general. Besides the formal sessions of the World Power Conference there will be a supplemental technical program in connection with the study tours. A feature of these tours will be the "round table" discussions to be carefully planned in advance and led by experts, dealing with special technical problems pertinent to the places visited or of special interest to the respective groups of delegates.

The plan of paper presentation is to have each participating country submit one or more papers on each of the topics with which it has any concern. These papers will be condensed into reports to be presented by official reporters, to be followed by open discussion.

There will be a comprehensive exhibit to illustrate the latest developments in power production and utilization, so prepared as to interest both technician and layman. Photographs, models both operating and stationary, moving pictures and transparencies will be used.

The tours connected with the conference, as now

planned, consist first of a group of "study tours," each to last from 5 days to 2 weeks, to be scheduled both before and after the conference in accordance with the preferences of delegates. These "study tours" will be laid out according to major special technical interests of delegates. They will cover practically everything that can be seen in the way of power production, transmission and utilization east of the Mississippi. Second, a three week's post-conference transcontinental tour by special train is being planned to include Glacier Park, the Grand Coulee, Seattle, San Francisco and Boulder Dam.

The World Power Conference acts through national committees or representatives of some 50 nations. The national committees are made up in general of representatives of the governments of those countries, of the technical societies, of their educational institutions and of trade groups interested in power.

Plenary conferences are held every six years; the first was in London in 1924, the second in Berlin in 1930. At intervals there are sectional regional conferences for the discussion of specific problems.

Between conferences the permanent International Executive Council—of which Sir Harold Hartley, of Great Britain, is now chairman—holds annual meetings planning for future conferences and disposing of matters brought up at past conferences, the latter generally of a technical nature. There is a permanent headquarters in London.

An international Commission on Large Dams was organized on French initiative in 1930 as part of the World Power Conference; G. Mercier, of France, is chairman.

AWARD OF THE MEYER MEDAL TO P. H. DORSETT

THE Meyer Medal for distinguished service in plant introduction was presented on June 13 to P. H. Dorsett, who for over forty-five years has been associated with the scientific work of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The presentation was made by Dr. David Fairchild, on behalf of the council of the American Genetic Association, at the Plant Introduction Station of the U. S. Department of Agriculture at Bell, Maryland.

Mr. Dorsett's greatest contribution to American agriculture was made between 1924 and 1927, when he was instrumental in bringing together the largest collection of soybean varieties that has ever been made. Two expeditions to China were undertaken to make this collection. On the first trip Mr. Dorsett and his son, the late James Dorsett, collected over 2,000 samples from Nanking and vicinity. On the second expedition, Mr. Dorsett and Dr. William J. Morse, soybean expert of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, collected over 6,000 samples which were sent to the United States for test. A total number of over 2,000 distinct varieties of soybeans was obtained from these samples. These are being tested in many places to determine their value to the American farmer. Some of them are already being widely used.

Mr. Dorsett also took part in three expeditions to obtain new varieties of plants to Brazil (1913–14) and to the West Indies in 1927–30. He was instrumental in bringing into the United States valuable citrus varieties and many rare ornamental plants which are now being tested in the plant introduction station of the U. S. Government. He has also spent many years engaged in research in methods of utilizing plant introductions in American agriculture.

The Meyer Medal is awarded at intervals by the council of the American Genetic Association for distinguished services in plant introduction. It is named in honor of the late Frank Meyer, pioneer plant explorer of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and had its origin in a fund left by him to his fellow workers in plant introduction, who voted to use it for this purpose. Mr. Meyer spent the last nine years of his life in plant explorations in China. He never returned from his last expedition, having been drowned on the Yangtze River in 1919.

THE SEMI-CENTENNIAL RESEARCH PRIZES OF SIGMA XI

THE Sigma Xi Semi-Centennial Research Prizes of one thousand dollars each have been awarded for work in the biological sciences to Dr. Richard E. Shope, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, Princeton, N. J., and for work in the physical sciences to Professor I. I. Rabi, of Columbia University.

In presenting the prizes at the semi-centennial meeting of the society, which was held at Cornell University on June 19 and 20, Dr. William F. Durand, national president of Sigma Xi, said:

> All the chapters and clubs of Sigma Xi were asked to name one candidate for each of these awards, and to accompany their nomination with a statement of the project upon which the candidate is at work, together with supporting letters from three prominent scientists who are acquainted with the candidate and with the importance of his project.
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> There was a total of 85 different candidates—43 for the physical sciences and 42 for the biological sciences. The committee held two conferences at which all members were present, and a sub-committee on the physical sciences, and a sub-committee on the biological sciences had several conferences each. The committee called into counsel numerous individuals other than the original sponsors of the candidates, regarding the ability of can-