ment. In this situation a better understanding of American industrial standards has been felt to be an important factor in our future business relations with the country.

The action taken by the A. S. A. Board is contingent upon the guarantee of sufficient funds to support the work by the concerns interested in the project. A committee, consisting of L. J. Briggs, director, National Bureau of Standards; C. L. Collens, president, Reliance Electric and Engineering Company; Howard Coonley, chairman of board, Walworth Company, and R. E. Zimmerman, vice-president, U. S. Steel Corporation, has been appointed to draw up a possible budget and to determine definitely whether and from what sources financial support may be forthcoming. This committee will also, with the advice and collaboration of the National Foreign Trade Council and of those American firms participating in the financial program, assist in the selection of the proposed representative. This representative, who will be stationed at Buenos Aires, will undoubtedly look for considerable supervision and guidance in his work to the American Chamber of Commerce at Buenos Aires, which has expressed itself as exceedingly interested in the project.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

THE fifty-ninth annual meeting of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers will be held at the Engineering Societies Building in New York City from December 5 to 9. It will present the latest developments in the fields of machine tools, steam power, aeronautics, management, safety, metals, fuels, instruments, textiles, hydraulics, lubrication, railroads, research and ordnance.

Engineers from all parts of the world will attend the meeting to present the results of their work in all phases of mechanical engineering, with particular emphasis on high speed, high pressure, high efficiency and high temperature. For each engineer who speaks, it is expected that there will be twenty-five others in attendance.

During the week, delegates from the seventy-one local sections of the society in the United States and Canada will meet to discuss ways and means of increasing the usefulness of the society, which has now 15,000 members, to the individual member and to his community. A conference will be held for the purpose of correlating the activities of the divisions so as better to promote the art and science of mechanical engineering as a whole. The society at present is made up of seventeen divisions: Aeronautics, Applied Mechanics, Fuels, Graphic Arts, Heat Transfer, Hydraulics, Iron and Steel, Machine Shop Practice, Management, Materials Handling, Oil and Gas Power, Petroleum, Power, Process Industries, Railroad, Textile and Wood Industries.

Besides the technical sessions, there will be a business meeting on Monday afternoon, December 5, and several luncheons and dinners. The chief social events are: Honors Night on Tuesday evening, December 6, when awards and medals will be presented, and the annual dinner on Wednesday evening, December 7.

THE MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

THE twenty-third annual meeting of the Mathematical Association of America will be held at Richmond and Williamsburg, Virginia, from Tuesday to Saturday, December 27–31, in conjunction with the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Mathematical Society and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

The association will meet jointly with Sections A and E of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the society on Wednesday morning in Richmond and will hold a joint session with the National Council at Williamsburg on Friday afternoon and a separate session on Saturday morning, when the annual business meeting will be held. The Program Committee is planning three addresses for the Saturday morning session.

The American Mathematical Society will hold sessions on Wednesday morning in Richmond and on Wednesday afternoon through Friday morning in Williamsburg; on Thursday afternoon President R. L. Moore will deliver his retiring address, "On Certain Abstract Spaces." The National Council will hold on Friday morning a section on arithmetic and a secondary section on school mathematics; at the joint session on Friday afternoon addresses on teacher training will be given by Professors A. A. Bennett, F. L. Wren and R. L. Morton.

On Tuesday evening, in Richmond, Dean G. D. Birkhoff, of Harvard University, will deliver his address as retiring president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science on "Intuition, Reason and Faith in Science." This is the opening meeting of the association.

In the Broadcasting Studio of the Mosque, Richmond, at 9:30 A.M., on Wednesday, Professor W. D. Cairns, of Oberlin College, will deliver his retiring address as vice-president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and chairman of Section A before a joint session of Sections A and E, the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Association. His subject will be "Seismology from a Mathematical Viewpoint." At 10:45 Professor H. A. Rademacher, of the University of Pennsylvania, will make an address on "Fourier Expansions

of Modular Functions and Theorems on Partitions" at a joint session of Section A, the Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Association. At the Mosque at 11:00 A.M., on Wednesday, Professor R. C. Archibald, of Brown University, will deliver his retiring address as vice-president and chairman of Section L. He will speak on "Mathematicians, and Poetry and Drama."

AWARD OF THE PENROSE MEDAL TO PROFESSOR LAWSON

THE Penrose Medal, the highest honor of the Geological Society of America, has been awarded to Dr. Andrew Cowper Lawson, professor emeritus of geology and mineralogy at the University of California, "for eminent research in pure geology, and outstanding original contributions and achievements which mark a decided advance in the science of geology."

Dr. Lawson, authority on earthquake phenomena and continental border movements, is the tenth recipient of the medal since its founding in 1927 by the late Dr. R. A. F. Penrose, Jr., of Philadelphia. Presentation will be made at a dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City, on December 30 during the semi-centennial meeting of the society.

Engaged in many different phases of research in geology since 1882, Dr. Lawson has studied and published reports on numerous regions of the United States and Canada. After the great California earthquake in 1906 he organized and directed investigations in seismology, advancing the science of predicting earthquakes. He has recently devoted much attention to fundamental theories concerning the nature and process of certain types of earth movements, and is author of a series of papers on the applications and implication of the theory of isostasy, a subject involving the theoretical condition of equilibrium which the earth's surface assumes under gravitation. He has been on the faculty of the University of California for forty-eight years.

Dr. Lawson was born in Anstruther, Scotland, on July 25, 1861. He was graduated from the University of Toronto in 1883. He took the master of arts degree at Toronto in 1885, and the doctor's degree at the Johns Hopkins University in 1888. Harvard University conferred the honorary degree of science upon him in 1936, the University of Toronto having similarly honored him in 1923. He received the honorary degree of doctor of laws from the University of California in 1934.

He became assistant professor of mineralogy and geology at the University of California in 1890, having been on the Canadian Geological Survey eight years. In 1892 he was named associate professor, and in 1899 full professor, continuing until his retirement from active duty in 1928. He was dean of the College of Mining from 1914 to 1918. Besides being chairman of the California State Earthquake Committee in 1906, he was a member of the U. S. Assay Commission in 1916; chairman of the Division of Geology and Geography of the National Research Council in 1923–24, and delegate to the International Geological Congress in 1888 in London, 1897 in St. Petersburg, 1913 in Toronto and 1928 in Madrid.

Dr. Lawson was president of the Geological Society in 1926, vice-president in 1908, chairman of the Cordilleran Section from 1906 to 1912 and secretary of the same section from 1899 to 1906. He was president of the Seismological Society of America in 1909. He is also a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society and the National Academy of Sciences.

The award committee, in addition to Dr. Vaughan, was composed of Professors Nevin M. Fenneman, of the University of Cincinnati; Douglas Johnson, of Columbia University; Donald H. McLaughlin, of Harvard University; Adolph Knopf, of Yale University; John P. Buwalda, of the California Institute of Technology, and James Gilluly, of the University of California at Los Angeles.

Previous recipients of the medal have been: Thomas C. Chamberlin, 1927; Jakob J. Sederholm, 1928; Francois A. A. Lacroix, 1930; William M. Davis, 1931; Edward O. Ulrich, 1932; Waldemar Lindgren, 1933; Charles Schuchert, 1934; Reginald A. Daly, 1935, and Arthur P. Coleman, 1936. No medal was awarded in 1929 and 1937.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Nobel prize in physics has been awarded to Professor Enrico Fermi, of the University of Rome, "in recognition of his discovery of new elementary radioactive substances engendered by irradiation of neutrons." It is announced that Nobel prizes for physiology and medicine and for chemistry will not be awarded this year.

THE following awards of medals have been made by the President and Council of the Royal Society, London: The Copley Medal to Professor Niels Bohr, For.Mem.R.S., in recognition of his distinguished work in theoretical physics and particularly in the development of the quantum theory of atomic structure. The Rumford Medal, as announced in SCIENCE