

of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers "for outstanding and inspiring leadership in engineering education and in the fields of generation and distribution of electric power." The presentation will be made on the evening of January 25, during the annual winter convention of the institute, which will be held in the Engineering Societies Building, New York.

Dr. Jackson's early engineering experience was gained as vice-president and engineer from 1887 to 1889, for the Western Engineering Company at Lincoln, Nebr. He was assistant chief engineer with the Sprague Electric Railway and Motor Company, New York City, from 1889 to 1891, and later was chief engineer for the central district of the Edison General Electric Company. In 1891, he formed a consulting engineering firm with his brother, W. B. Jackson, and also became professor of electrical engineering at the University of Wisconsin. In 1907 he was appointed professor and head of the department of electrical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, becoming professor emeritus in 1935. He continued as senior partner of the consulting engineering firm of Jackson and Moreland, organized in 1919, until 1930.

Dr. Jackson joined the American Institute of Electrical Engineers in 1887. He has been member and chairman of many institute committees, and was vice-president, 1897-99, and president, 1910-11. He has been president of the Boston Society of Civil Engineers and of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education and is president of the American Institute of Consulting Engineers. He is president of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and was a member of the National Research Council from 1928 to 1936. He has published five books on electrical engineering and approximately 150 articles related to engineering projects and engineering education. Dr. Jackson served in France as lieutenant-colonel of engineers during the latter part of the World War, and is Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor.

The Edison Medal, founded by associates and friends of Thomas A. Edison to perpetuate his memory, is awarded annually for "meritorious achievement in electrical science, electrical engineering or the electrical arts" by a committee of twenty-four of the leading members of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. Previous recipients have been Elihu Thomson, Frank J. Sprague, George Westinghouse, William Stanley, Charles F. Brush, Alexander Graham Bell, Nikola Tesla, John J. Carty, Benjamin G. Lamme, W. L. R. Emmet, Michael I. Pupin, Cumings C. Chesney, Robert A. Millikan, John W. Lieb, John White Howell, Harris J. Ryan, William D. Coolidge, Frank B. Jewett, Charles F. Scott, Frank Conrad, Edwin W. Rice, Jr., Bancroft Gherardi, A. E. Kennelly,

Willis R. Whitney, Lewis B. Stillwell, Alex Dow and Gano Dunn.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY INTRODUCING THE PILGRIM TRUST LECTURER

At a meeting of the Royal Society on December 8 held at the Royal Institution, the president of the Royal Society, Sir William Bragg, delivered the following speech preparatory to the Pilgrim Trust Lecture by Dr. Irving Langmuir. He spoke as follows:

The principal business of this afternoon has a significance which is at once important, interesting and welcome. We are to hear an address from one of the greatest scientists of the United States, honored throughout the world. In introducing him to you I must tell you in a few words why he has come, and what his coming means to us.

Rather more than a year ago, Professor L. J. Henderson, of Harvard University, foreign secretary to the National Academy of Sciences of Washington, was a visitor to this country and had many meetings with fellows of our (Royal) society. At one of these meetings the suggestion was made that there would be valuable results if direct cooperation could be established between the National Academy and our society. It was thought that a first step in this direction would be made if lecturers could be interchanged between the two bodies and the countries which they represented. The Pilgrim Trust was approached, and a most generous response was made. The trust promised to give £250 guineas a year for six years in order that a good trial might be made of a suitable scheme. Finally, it was proposed that in alternate years an American scientist should be invited to England by our society, and a British scientist invited to America by the academy. The two societies gladly endorsed the proposal in October of last year. The presence of Dr. Irving Langmuir, invited by our society, is the first realization of the scheme.

I should explain for the benefit of some who may not be familiar with the scientific institutions of America that the National Academy occupies a foremost place in the States. It corresponds in many ways with our society. Our society is proud to be associated with an institution of such high standing; our relations with it have always been most friendly, and we are glad indeed that they are to be strengthened still further by this new bond between us.

Dr. Irving Langmuir was chosen without any hesitation as the man whom we would most like to see in Britain as our first Pilgrim Trust lecturer. He has already done famous things both in pure science and its applications. No doubt there are many who know what he has done for the great illumination problems. The modern electric lamp, with its filling of gas, is largely his creation, and the electron discharge has been developed by him so as to become one of the useful tools of industry. His work on the nature, properties and handling of molecular films spread on the surfaces of liquids is admired and copied in every laboratory of distinction. He has new work on

this subject to describe to us this afternoon, work which makes a notable addition to the subject of biochemistry. We are very happy that America should spare to us for this visit a man who has done so much for the reputation of American science, and we are very ready to learn what he has to teach us.

Our society has sought to pay its respect to Langmuir's work by the award of the Hughes Medal in 1918, and by electing him as a foreign member of our body. He re-

ceived the Nobel Prize for chemistry in 1932. The American Academy of Arts and Sciences gave him the Rumford Medal in 1920.

It is an interesting fact that this Rumford Medal is the parallel of our own Rumford Medal, in that the two were founded by the same great scientist. I may draw your attention to a further interesting fact, that Rumford the American was the originator of the Royal Institution where we meet to-day.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE American Association for the Advancement of Science and a large number of affiliated and associated societies are holding meetings in Richmond during the present week, under the presidency of Dr. S. A. Mitchell, professor of economics in Columbia University. A preliminary program, edited by Dr. F. R. Moulton, permanent secretary, was printed in the issue of SCIENCE for December 2. Full accounts of the meeting and a number of the more important addresses will appear subsequently. The address of the retiring president, Dr. George D. Birkhoff, will be found in the present issue.

THE election of the following sectional presidents of the British Association has been announced: *Mathematical and Physical Sciences*, R. S. Whipple; *Chemistry*, Professor E. K. Rideal; *Geology*, Professor H. H. Read; *Zoology*, Professor J. Ritchie; *Geography*, A. Stevens; *Economics*, Professor H. O. Meredith; *Engineering*, H. E. Wimperis; *Anthropology*, Professor W. E. Le Gros Clark; *Physiology*, Professor D. Burns; *Psychology*, R. J. Bartlett; *Botany*, Professor D. Thoday; *Education*, Dr. A. P. M. Fleming; *Agriculture*, Sir Thomas Middleton. The annual meeting in 1939 will be held at Dundee from August 30 to September 6, under the presidency of Sir Albert Seward.

PROFESSOR D. W. JOHNSON, professor of physiography at Columbia University; Professor H. von Ecker-mann, assistant professor of mineralogy and crystallography in the University of Stockholm, and Professor A. A. Öpik, professor of geology in the University of Esthonia, have been elected foreign correspondents of the Geological Society of London. Professor Emile Argand, professor of geology, mineralogy, petrography and paleontology in the University of Neuchâtel, and Dr. E. A. Stensiö, director of the department of paleozoology in the Naturhistoriska Riksmuseum, Stockholm, have been elected foreign fellows.

DR. H. B. WALKER, of the College of Agriculture of the University of California, was awarded the John Deere Medal for 1939 of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers in recognition of his "disting-

guished achievement in the application of science and art to the soil" at the Chicago meeting. The medal was given to the society for annual award by descendants of John Deere, inventor of the first all-steel plow. Last year for the first time it was awarded to S. H. McCrory, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The presentation to Dr. Walker will be made at the annual meeting of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers to be held at the University of Minnesota next June.

At the hundred and ninety-fourth convocation of the University of Chicago the honorary doctorate of science was conferred on Dr. James B. Herrick, who retired in 1926 as emeritus professor of medicine of the Rush Medical College. Dr. Emmet B. Bay, dean of Rush Medical College, a former student and associate, presented Dr. Herrick for the degree. The citation read: "Scholarly teacher and devoted physician, whose character and attainments have adorned this university and whose contributions to knowledge have enriched the annals of medical science."

THE University of Paris has conferred honorary degrees on Dr. Albert von Szent-Györgyi, professor of medical chemistry in the faculty of medicine of the University of Szeged; on Dr. S. P. L. Sorenson, director of the chemical section of the Carlsberg Laboratory, Copenhagen, and on Dr. Paul Karrer, director of the Institute of Chemistry at the University of Zurich.

TRINITY COLLEGE, Dublin, conferred on December 8 the honorary degree of doctor of science on Dr. E. S. Goodrich, professor of zoology and comparative anatomy at the University of Oxford.

Museum News reports that the Inter-Museum Council of New York City, at a meeting of representatives of about thirty institutions held on November 4, elected Dr. Clark Wissler, of the American Museum of Natural History, *chairman*; Hardinge Scholle, Museum of the City of New York, *vice-chairman*, and Robert P. Shaw, of the New York Museum of Science and Industry, *secretary-treasurer*.

DR. ERNEST E. TYZZER, George Fabyan professor of comparative pathology at Harvard Medical School,