SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

ENDOWMENT OF THE SCHOOL OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

IN Great Britain, the Shell group of oil companies has offered the University of Cambridge an endowment of £435,000 for the establishment of a School of Chemical Engineering. In addition a sum of £2,500 a year is to be made available for the provision of scholarships. *The Times*, London, writes:

the group attributes a large measure of its own success to the importance which it has consistently attached to scientific and particularly to chemical research and development. It has been impressed through its association with other countries, especially Holland and the United States, by the fact that British universities are relatively ill-equipped to provide this country with the trained chemical engineers which British industry is certain to demand in increasing numbers.

The offer has been made to meet what is clearly a national need and to secure the cooperation of the university where, by the side of great scientific departments, there already exists the largest university school of engineering in the country.

The group has suggested that the best results will be obtained if specialized study of chemical engineering is undertaken after a two-year honors course in the natural sciences. In this view the university authorities concur, and from the academic standpoint attach importance to the fundamental scientific training which an industrial undertaking with a preeminent record of achievement in the domain of chemistry has found, by the light of its own experience, to be essential.

In their plans for the new school the university authorities and the group recognize that the need is for men of the highest quality, and it is proposed that initially the output of qualified graduates shall be about 30 a year, with provision for expansion as university-trained chemical engineers are increasingly absorbed into industry, teaching and research.

THE JOHN WESLEY HYATT AWARD

ENTRIES for the John Wesley Hyatt Award for achievement in the plastics industry for 1944 have been invited by William T. Cruse, secretary of the award committee.

To be considered, the names must reach the committee's headquarters at 295 Madison Avenue, New York City, not later than noon on March 26.

The award, consisting of a gold medal and a cash gift of $1,000, is sponsored annually by the Hercules Powder Company. It is presented to the individual who, in the opinion of the judges, has made "an outstanding contribution of wide importance to the plastics industry during the preceding year."

Any one may enter or be entered as a candidate for the award. Five points determine eligibility:

First, is the achievement practicable, with special reference to availability of materials and production equipment, and to restrictions in fields of application?

Second, is the development reasonably permanent and what is the scope for further applications in the plastics industry and similar fields?

Third, has the achievement been of import to the plastics industry in the year for which the award is given, regardless of the year of its conception?

Fourth, does the development appear to have great promise for the industry in future years?

Fifth, the ingenuity required in the development of the achievement.

The award committee consists of Richard F. Bach, dean of education, The Metropolitan Museum of Art; Dr. Lyman J. Briggs, director, National Bureau of Standards; Dr. Karl T. Compton, president, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Watson Davis, director, Science Service; Dr. Carl S. Marvel, president, the American Chemical Society; George K. Scribner, president, the Society of the Plastics Industry; Dr. Stuart D. Douglas, head of research, the Carbide and Carbon Chemicals Corporation, who received the Hyatt award last year; and the secretary, Mr. Cruse.

Entry blanks are available upon request at the committee's headquarters. These forms provide space for the candidate's name and for complete facts and details regarding his or her particular achievement.

THE FOURTH ANNUAL SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH

FORTY scholarships for the continuance of engineering and scientific education were awarded on March 6 at Washington to successful contestants of the fourth annual science talent search conducted by Science Clubs of America. The scholarships are provided by the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company as a contribution to the advancement of science in America. Included in the awards were four-year scholarships of $2,400 to Marion Cecile Joswick, 17, of Brooklyn, N. Y., a graduate of Manual Training High School, and Edward Malcolm Kosower, 16, a Brooklyn, N. Y., resident and a senior at Stuyvesant High School in Manhattan. In addition, one girl and seven boys received four-year $400 Westinghouse science scholarships. Thirty other boys and girls received one-year Westinghouse science scholarships worth $100 each. The sum of $11,000 for these scholarships is awarded each year.

The scholarships can be used to attend any degree-granting college or university, subject to the approval of the scholarship committee of Science Clubs of

America. Scholarships will be held in trust for use after the war for those who enter military service. Forty per cent. of the one hundred and twenty successful contestants are now in military service.

Award of the scholarships was determined at Washington on the basis of individual interviews with the Board of Judges composed of Dr. Harlow Shapley, director of the Harvard Observatory; Dr. Harold A. Edgerton, director of the Occupational Opportunities Service of the Ohio State University, and Dr. Steuart Henderson Britt, chief of the Military Advisory Section of the National Roster of Scientific and Specialized Personnel of the War Manpower Commission.

The fourth talent search opened last autumn when 50,000 high-school principals and science teachers were asked to assist in finding the forty seniors most talented in science in private and denominational schools. Some 15,000 seniors entered. Of these, about 3,000 completed the requirements for being considered for the scholarship awards—a science aptitude examination, the writing of a one-thousand-word essay and submission by the faculty of scholastic and personal records and recommendations.

Speakers at the institute at which the entrants were judged included Major General James C. Magee, U.S.A., retired, former Surgeon General; G. Edward Pendray, secretary of the American Rocket Society; Dr. Roger Adams, Office of Scientific Research and Development, Washington; Dr. Warren B. Mack, president of the American Society for Horticulture and head of the department of horticulture, Pennsylvania State College, and Dr. George W. Corner, department of embryology at Baltimore of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

IN HONOR OF PROFESSOR DUGALD C. JACKSON

FRIENDS of Professor Dugald C. Jackson, from 1907 to 1935 head of the electrical engineering department of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, gathered at the Engineers Club on the evening of February 13 to celebrate the eightieth anniversary of his birth.

After a social half-hour in the library, the company filled the Assembly Hall at the birthday banquet. The speakers included President Compton, who presided; Dean Barker, of Columbia University; President Sah, of the National University of Amoy, China; Dean Moreland, Professor Hazen and Professor C. E. Tucker. Mr. Gerard Swope and Dr. Frank B. Jewett, on the original list of speakers, were not able to attend. President Compton read letters of appreciation from Dr. Jewett and from Dr. Vannevar Bush. President Sah brought greetings from China, and Dean Moreland on behalf of the engineering firm of Jackson and Moreland presented Professor Jackson with a set of the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

Professor Tucker spoke of the one hundred and seventy-four letters of greeting and appreciation that Professor Jackson had received on this occasion from various societies, friends and former students. Before presenting him with a volume of the letters bound in tooled leather, Professor Tucker read typical letters received from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Brigadier General Forrest E. Williford, President William E. Wickenden, of the Case School of Applied Science, Professor Ralph G. Hudson, Harold S. Osborne, chief engineer of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, and the Technology Club of Western Pennsylvania.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE William H. Nichols Medal of the New York Section of the American Chemical Society was presented to Professor Vincent du Vigneaud, head of the department of biochemistry in the Cornell University Medical College, at a joint meeting on March 9 of the section and the Society of Chemical Industry. The award was made for his work as an "inspiring teacher, gifted scientist, tireless searcher for truth, in recognition of his researches on the structure of biotin and other outstanding contributions to the advancement of biochemistry." Dr. Edwin J. Cohn, professor of physical chemistry in the Harvard Medical School, spoke on "Vincent du Vigneaud—the Man," and Dr. Hans T. Clarke, professor of biochemistry in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, spoke on "The Work of the Medallist." The medal was presented by Dr. Robert Calvert, chairman of the jury of award. Dr. Beverly L. Clarke, chairman of the New York Section, presided. Professor du Vigneaud in his medal address discussed "The Relationship of Structure to Biotin and Antibiotin Activity."

THE 1944 Gold Medal Award of the American Institute of Chemists will be presented on May 11 at the Medal Meeting of the institute to be held in Columbus, Ohio. It will be presented to John W. Thomas, chairman and chief executive of the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, in special recognition of his "executive ability in translating research results into large-scale production, which was a major aid in the development of America's giant wartime synthetic rubber industry."

THE Minnesota Branch of the American Association of Scientific Workers, in cooperation with the depart-