MEDALS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

MEDAL PRESENTATIONS: REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT

Annually at this time presentation of medals and awards is made by the academy. These are bestowed by formal vote of the academy acting on the recommendations of special committees charged with the responsibility of administering the several trust funds.

Normally the occasion of the bestowal is at a dinner to which the academy invites a number of distinguished men and women to be guests. This year, because of the exigencies of war, the dinner is necessarily confined to the members and the medalists. Although, therefore, the setting for the presentations this evening lacks the brilliance of former occasions, I can assure our medalists that it lacks nothing in the esteem in which the academy holds them and their work.

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To-night we have five medals to bestow. Two of them are governed by the same trust fund and under its terms are in recognition of distinguished work published in specific years. With some of the medals go monetary awards and diplomas. The medalists will be presented by the chairman or a representative of the trust fund committee which made the nomination to the academy.

The medals will be awarded in the order of establishment of the trust funds.

The first award is that of the Henry Draper Gold Medal to Ira Sprague Bowen, and the citation is: “in recognition of his contributions to astronomical physics; more especially his researches on the spectra and chemical composition of the gaseous nebulae.” Dr. S. A. Mitchell will present the medalist.

The Draper Fund was established on April 13, 1883, by deed of gift from Mary Anna Palmer Draper ($10,000 and die), and the deed of establishment provides interest and income to be used for the medal to
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