

Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Virginia. Under the auspices of the University of Virginia, the first annual session of the Institute of Public Affairs was held at Charlottesville on August 8-20, 1927. The object of this enterprise was not to duplicate the Williams-town Institute of Politics, but to create an agency that would confine its studies primarily to contemporary national, state, and local governmental problems; that would afford an intimate clearing-house for the views of recognized scholars and of leaders in practical politics; and that would provide a popular forum for proponents of conflicting current programs. Realization of these purposes was well assured by the representative character of the board of advisors and of the staff of twenty-four lecturers.

The regularly enrolled attendants numbered about one hundred. Of nearly two thousand auditors who registered only for the popular lectures, several were students in the university summer quarter. The Institute was organized into six round-tables, which met on alternate days; and there were twenty-four general lectures, distributed over morning and evening periods, some of them resolving themselves into open forums. The round-table conferences, averaging about twenty-five members each, permitted consideration of technical problems. Professors A. R. Hatton, of Northwestern University, and Thomas H. Reed, of the University of Michigan, conducted the conferences on state and municipal governments, respectively. Conferences on American social and economic problems were led by President John L. Coulter of the North Dakota Agricultural College, Professor G. W. Dyer, of Vanderbilt University, Tax Commissioner Mark Graves, of New York, and Mr. Victor Rosewater. Academic freedom was dominant, and attention was devoted to pedagogical problems relating to the cultivation of student interest in local affairs.

In the initial general lecture, Governor Harry F. Byrd dealt with problems in the reorganization of state and county governments. Of the twenty-three succeeding discourses, twenty treated of American domestic affairs. Governor Henry J. Allen opened a popular forum on inland water-way development. The zenith of the debates was reached on a morning when alcoholic prohibition was defended by ex-Secretary William Gibbs McAdoo, Senator Carter Glass, and Professor A. R. Hatton, in opposition to arguments advanced by Governor Albert Ritchie. The public addresses are being published and may be obtained,

at a price of one dollar, from the director, Dean Charles G. Maphis, University of Virginia.

The general results of the Institute would suggest that every state, and even every county, should maintain an institute of public affairs, after the manner of the old-fashioned farmers' institutes and of the present-day teachers' institutes, to the end that the electorate may more effectively accomplish its functions. Virginia's experiment furnishes a model that is subject to even further elaboration. For the 1928 meeting, indeed, the sponsors are already considering a conference of governors and addresses by nominees for the presidency.

MILTON CONOVER.

Yale University.

Los Angeles Institute of Public Affairs. The second Los Angeles Institute of Public Affairs, designed for persons interested in law and government, was held July 5-9. As was the case with the first Institute, held in the summer of 1926, the Institute this year was conducted in connection with the University of California summer session in Los Angeles and was sponsored by the political science department. The subjects dealt with at the Institute this year, both in formal lectures and in conferences, were in two general fields of interest, namely, state government and law. The following persons addressed the Institute and led the round-table discussions on state government: Hon. A. R. Heron, chairman of the California state board of control; Hon. William J. Cooper, superintendent of public instruction for the state of California; Mr. Clarence A. Dykstra, lecturer on municipal government in the University of California at Los Angeles; Professor W. W. Mather, of the Chaffey Junior College at Ontario, California; and Professor Russell M. Story, of Pomona College.

The subject of Mr. Heron's address was "The Reorganization of the Administrative Services of the State of California." The speaker noted that the reorganization of state administration in California now in progress is the outcome of many years of study in this as well as in other states. At the present time two principles are guiding the reorganization plans. "The first is that of grouping together in one department all functions which have organic relationship. The second is that of providing for the governor a group of advisors, nine in number, consisting of the directors of the main departments of government, who will constitute a council" which will meet with the governor in an advisory capacity and for consultation purposes. Mr. Cooper spoke