

ican Society of Naturalists, by which name the eastern society is now known ;

And whereas, it is desirable that the organization of the central naturalists should be co-ordinate with the eastern society ;

And whereas, it is desirable that all the naturalists of the country should, as far as possible, come together from time to time in a national general gathering ;

Resolved, that the naturalists of the Central States form a permanent organization and that they favor a coordinate relation of this association and that of the Eastern States, as eastern and central branches respectively of the American Society of Naturalists.

That the two organizations meet annually in their respective territories (except as stated below), have the same conditions of membership, elect their own officers and collect and disburse their own funds ;

That the records of the two branches, including lists of members, be published jointly at joint expense and under the joint editorship of the secretaries of the two branches ;

That every third year the two branches meet together alternately in the East and in the Central States, that the officers of the meeting be those of the receiving branch, and that visiting members enjoy full privileges, except as may be agreed upon at the time of joint ratification of this resolution ;

That this resolution be transmitted to the American Society of Naturalists at its Chicago meeting, with the suggestion that it be referred to a committee to arrange further details and that the report of the committee be received and acted upon at the same meeting ;

That, a copy of these resolutions be printed in *SCIENCE* to give an opportunity for full discussion of them.

C. B. DAVENPORT,
Secretary of Committee.

SCIENTIFIC POSITIONS UNDER THE GOVERNMENT.

A NUMBER of important scientific positions will be filled by civil service examination on June 3d. It is desired to establish an eligible register for the positions of plant physiologist and plant pathologist in the office of Plant

Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, with salaries of \$1,800 per annum. The competitors will not be assembled for this examination, but must make application for the special form and send the following information not later than the date mentioned. The statements in physiology, those in pathology being similar, together with the weights, are as follows :

1. A statement of the line of study pursued in the colleges in which the competitor has received degrees or in which he has carried on work :
 - (a) Technical and practical work with plant physiology. 20
 - (b) Scientific research in physiology and co-ordinate lines 20
 - (c) Submission of a list of articles on physiology and related subjects published by competitor 25
2. A statement of the competitor's experience as an executive officer or teacher..... 15
3. A statement of not less than 500 words setting forth the present status and prospective development of plant physiological research..... 20

An examination will be held on the same day in any city where postal free delivery has been established for the position of assistant in the seed laboratory of the Division of Botany with a salary of \$1,200, the subjects and weights being as follows :

1. Essay on methods of conducting purity tests (orthography and penmanship will be marked on this exercise) 10
2. Structural botany..... 15
3. Morphology of the seed 20
4. Reading botanical German 10
5. Drawing of seeds 15
6. Identification of seeds..... 30

An examination under similar conditions will be held for the position of a field assistant in the Department of Agriculture, with a salary of \$1,000. Here the subjects and weights are :

1. Forestry.....(sheet 1)..... 60
2. Botany.....(sheet 2)..... 10
3. English composition.....(sheet 3)..... 10
4. Education and experience.....(sheet 4)..... 20

An examination for the position of computer in the Division of Forestry, with a salary of \$1,000, will also be held, the subjects being :

1. Forest mensuration..... 60
2. General forestry..... 25

3. Education and experience..... 15

For the position of ethnologist in the Bureau of American Ethnology, at a salary of \$1,500, an examination will be held as follows :

1. Essay on ethnologic and archeologic subject..... 20
2. Experience in ethnologic work (a) in the field ;
(b) in writing, teaching, etc 20
3. Original publications on ethnologic and archeologic subjects..... 20
4. The geographic, ethnologic, and archeologic features of Arizona and New Mexico..... 30
5. Literature of ethnology and archeology of southwestern United States..... 10

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

A MEETING was held at Cambridge University on April 27th to arrange for some acknowledgment of the services to science and the University of Professor G. D. Liveing. Professor Liveing is now seventy-three years of age. In 1852 he organized the chemical laboratory at Cambridge which was the first scientific laboratory in the University.

DR. EDMUND B. WILSON, professor of zoology at Columbia University, and Dr. J. Playfair McMurrich, professor of anatomy at the University of Michigan, are among the Americans who will attend the International Zoological Congress to be held in Berlin from the 12th to 19th of August.

THE U. S. Biological Survey has been engaged for several years in studying the geographic distribution of animals and plants in Texas, with a view to the preparation of maps showing the limitations of the life zones and faunal areas in that State. Mr. Vernon Bailey, chief field naturalist of the Biological Survey, has charge of this work and has recently gone to southwestern Texas to begin field operations for the season of 1901. He is assisted by Mr. H. C. Oberholzer.

DR. D. A. CARMICHAEL, recently appointed federal quarantine officer in San Francisco, has arrived in that city. He has presumably been given this appointment on account of his success in suppressing the plague in Honolulu.

DR. GEORGE BLUMER, of the Bender Laboratory at Albany, has been appointed director of the Bureau of Bacteriology and Pathology, newly established by New York State.

PROFESSOR H. POTONIE and Dr. Aug. Denckmann have been appointed geologists in the Geological Bureau at Berlin.

MR. EVELYN BALDWIN, who is shortly to lead the North Polar expedition equipped by Mr. Ziegler, has gone to Norway and Denmark in connection with his preparations. He will shortly go to Dundee to join the steamer *America* which he recently acquired for the expedition.

MR. W. H. C. PYNCHON has given a course of six lectures at Trinity College upon the 'Geology of the Connecticut Valley Lowland.'

MISS C. M. DERICK, lecturer in botany at McGill University, has been granted a year's leave of absence, and will study botany under Strasburger at Bonn.

DR. THOMAS CONRAD PORTER, since 1866 professor at Lafayette College, died on April 27th, at the age of seventy-nine years. Dr. Porter at first taught the natural sciences at Lafayette College, while later his work was confined more especially to botany. He was made emeritus professor four years ago, but remained dean of the Pardee Scientific School. He was the author of a 'Botany of Pennsylvania,' 'A Synopsis of the Flora of Colorado' and other works. He was a man of great learning, belonging to the older school of naturalists, and, although he left very valuable collections and notes, it is to be feared that a vast fund of valuable information is lost by his death.

THE death is announced, at the age of 82 years, of Mr. James Douglas Reid, who was interested in the construction of the early telegraph lines in this country. He was the author of a book entitled 'The Telegraph in America,' and for a while conducted a journal devoted to telegraphy.

WE regret also to record the death at the age of 82 years, of F. K. M. Feofilaktow, lately professor of geology in the University at Kiev, of Dr. Adolph Hirsch, professor of astronomy in the University of Neuchatel and director of the observatory, and of Dr. S. Lamanski, the physicist of St. Petersburg.

THE International Association of Academies