advantage that it enables the expedition to carry many more investigators than if all were to remain constantly on board, as of old; and it also greatly widens the scope and increases the efficiency of their individual researches.

There are many problems, yet awaiting solution, which previous marine expeditions have either been obliged to neglect or have studied in a superficial and unsatisfactory manner. Such are:

1. The determination of the depth of the "red clay" which covers the floor of the deepest parts of the open oceans. Since the oceans ceased to boil this deposit has been gathering upon the floor of the deep sea, and a determination of its depth would enable us to form an approximate estimate of the age of the oceans themselves.

2. The character of and influences affecting ocean currents, especially at considerable depths.

3. The embryology of numerous creatures of the open ocean and of the deep water, such as *Nautilus,* the trachylina medusæ, etc.

4. A more accurate and intensive study of the nature and origin of coral atolls.

5. A more accurate study of the phenomena of oceanic volcanic islands.

6. A comparative study of the distribution of life over the great oceans; both near the surface, and at the bottom, over the open sea and in the neighborhood of coasts.

7. An intensive study of the arts, legends and habits of the native races of relatively inaccessible regions.

8. A more accurate study of meteorological conditions, leading to a more perfect understanding of the nature of the trade winds, tropical hurricanes, etc.

The nature and scope of the problems must, however, be determined by the capacities and training of those constituting the scientific staff of such an expedition. With a wisely selected corps of able, energetic students more might be accomplished upon an expedition planned in accordance with this which we have here crudely outlined, than has resulted from even the most expensively equipped marine expeditions of recent years, all of which have adhered to the old plan of attempting to constitute of the vessel a floating and traveling laboratory.

ALFRED GOLDSBOROUGH MAYER

THE MARYLAND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

THE Maryland legislature, which adjourned a few days ago, provided $1,000,000 for the work of the State Geological Survey during the coming biennial period—$50,000 for the geological investigations, topographic surveying, and maintenance of the testing laboratory; $150,000 for the continuation of the construction of the Baltimore-Washington road, and $800,000 for the work under the State Aid Highway Law, one half of the latter to come from the state treasury and one half from the county treasuries. Under the State Aid Law the roads must be built in accordance with the plans and specifications and under the supervision of the engineers of the Geological Survey.

The Mayland legislature also passed a bill providing for a bond issue of $5,000,000 for the construction of a main artery system of state highways 1,000 miles in length during the next five years, $1,000,000 to be available each year. A long and bitter fight developed over the administration of this new fund, the senate desiring it placed in the hands of the State Geological Survey and the house wishing a new commission. Just as the legislative session was closing a compromise was effected by which a new commission of six members was provided for, three to come from the Geological Survey. The understanding reached was that Governor Crothers, President Ira Remsen, of the Johns Hopkins University, and Dr. Wm. Bullock Clark, director of the State Geological Survey, should be selected to represent the survey. It was also agreed that after this new commission had designated the 1,000-mile system the roads should be turned over to the Geological Survey for construction. The leading newspapers of the state, including all of the daily papers of Baltimore, strongly advocated the placing of the work under the Geological Survey, where it would be effectively managed and free from political influ-

ence. The leading business bodies of Baltimore and the farmers' organizations throughout the state passed resolutions to the same effect. No subject before the Maryland legislature this past winter occasioned such widespread interest.

The Maryland Geological Survey began highway work ten years ago with the establishment of a highway division and has gradually developed the public interest that has made possible the present progressive highway movement in that state. Four years ago the State Aid Highway Law was passed and two years later an appropriation was made for commencing the construction of the Baltimore-Washington road under the Geological Survey. This is the first instance on record where a state geological survey has been entrusted with a great public work of this character and it is a matter of no small interest that a bureau which has been successfully maintaining its scientific work has at the same time secured the support of the people of the state in the largest undertaking in its history.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF ADULTERATION

The general committee of organization of the First International Congress for the Repression of Adulteration of Alimentary and Pharmaceutical Products, to which attention was called in your issue of March 20, 1908, has published the following additional items respecting the work of the congress:

The committee particularly asks from chemists a report of general interest on any subject of their own choice relating to the principal topic of the congress or a report treating of special questions entering into the restricted elements of one of the eight sections of the congress.

The committee further asks of all manufacturers and dealers definite notes indicating, in the group of foods or drugs which most specially interest them: first, the frauds and adulterations of which they have most to complain; second, the measures of protection they ask for; third, criticisms of the laws and regulations in force; fourth, the additions, viz., coloring matters, preserving agents, etc., which they ask to be authorized for their products or which they complain of seeing authorized.

The committee further asks that there be forwarded as soon as possible the titles of papers which are to be sent from the United States, the whole paper or abstract thereof to follow later. Inasmuch as the congress is fixed to begin on the eighth of September, it is important that American contributors do not delay in preparing the reports they wish to present. I further urge all who are intending to prepare papers for the congress to send me their titles without delay in order that they may be transmitted to the general committee.

The general committee also gives notice that the exhibition of pure and adulterated foods and drugs which it was intended to prepare has been postponed on account of the short time intervening before the opening of the congress.

I extend a second invitation to American chemists, manufacturers and dealers to subscribe to the congress, and will gladly undertake to forward such subscriptions, if sent to me at Washington. As before stated, the subscription price for an ordinary member is $4 and for a donating member $20. I am pleased to add that I have already received and forwarded to Geneva a goodly number of subscriptions of American members.

H. W. Wiley,
President of the American committee and vice-president of the congress

CORRESPONDENCE IN REGARD TO THE PENSIONING OF WIDOWS OF PROFESSORS BY THE CARNEGIE FOUNDATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF TEACHING

Columbia University
Division of
Philosophy, Psychology and Anthropology
Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.,
March 21, 1908

President Henry S. Pritchett, LL.D.,
The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, New York City

Dear Dr. Pritchett:

May I venture to ask whether Provision (6) under the rules adopted for the granting of normal retiring allowances by the Carnegie