

from instructor to be assistant professor of graphic arts.

THE following promotions have been made at Lehigh University: L. D. Conkling becomes assistant professor of civil engineering; S. S. Seyfert, assistant professor of electrical engineering; A. W. Klein, assistant professor of mechanical engineering; Joseph Daniels, assistant professor of mining engineering; J. W. Miller, assistant professor of mathematics; J. E. Stocker, assistant professor of mathematics and astronomy; F. R. Ingalsbe, assistant professor of geology; C. S. Fox, assistant professor of modern languages. In the department of chemistry D. J. McAdam, Jr., has been promoted from assistant in chemistry to instructor in physical chemistry and qualitative analysis; F. S. Beattie from instructor in chemistry to instructor in industrial chemistry and qualitative analysis.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NATURALISTS

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: As secretary of the American Society of Naturalists it has recently been necessary for me to become more familiar with the organization and relations of this society and to face its problems from a new point of view, especially in connection with arrangements for a program for the next meeting in December.

Some of my suggestions will probably be benefitted by discussion and, hence, should be published in advance of the meeting. I am aware that this matter was brought up in Chicago some years ago, but as action is still delayed I shall try to formulate the problem concisely in the hope of securing the attention of the society.

The recent publication of the program of the American Association for the Advancement of Science for a Darwin celebration shows most clearly how urgent this problem is. Here arrangements, peculiarly the province of the naturalists, have been perfected without consulting their official representatives! Speakers have been engaged and dates set which may conflict seriously with the plans of the Society of Naturalists now

maturing. Yet the American Association evidently desires to foster biological interests in undertaking such an extensive and appropriate program. The difficulty lies in the faulty organization of the naturalists! I have accidentally learned of a Darwinian celebration to be held about the same time under the auspices of the botanists. Other affiliated societies have not been heard from. Such lack of an organized cooperation between these societies must generally bring about diffuse results with more or less duplication or conflict. In this case, though each of the three or more Darwinian celebrations will probably prove to be well worth while, a proper recognition of the Society of Naturalists, as a primary natural division of the American Association, would have secured immediately a well-balanced correlation of effort resulting in a single celebration, even more effectively organized and representative. If, however, the society is to be thought of as a division of the American Association, it must be conceded the power of initiating and controlling action relating to the Naturalists.

The plan of organization for the Society of Naturalists, suggested below, would not merge it with any other society nor destroy its individuality, as has been feared at times would happen; on the contrary, it should gain a more dignified position, and its usefulness would be more generally recognized.

The following is my idea:

1. The Society of Naturalists is largely made up of members of affiliated societies, and still represents a real cooperation between these related special interests which have developed since its foundation. This cooperation should be maintained and extended by an effective organization.

2. The activity of this society, however, is now practically restricted to an annual dinner and to an annual discussion, though it makes occasional and irregular attempts at united effort when some common cause must be advanced, as, for instance, cooperation in biological investigation and teaching, or the dealing with educational, sociological or health problems, involving a national effort of the biological societies.

3. The group of societies forming the naturalists constitutes a great natural subdivision of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, representing a definite phase of the work and aims of this general society, but in no sense subordinate to it. The American Association should act for the Naturalists where its aid is demanded, but the relations of the two societies must be so adjusted that there shall be no danger of encroachment on the dignity, powers or functions of the Naturalists. The broader society can obtain good results only by a generous attitude of service to its coordinated sections.

4. The Society of Naturalists should then be preserved as an important group, but in a modified form.

5. The organization of the society should be made more representative and efficient by including all of the members of all affiliated societies. It should not then be restricted, from chiefly accidental causes, to a special list of names. As a matter of fact all naturalists are welcomed and actually take part in its dinners, discussions, etc. They should then be recognized as members. At present even a few of the officers of some of the affiliated societies are not rated as members of the naturalists.

6. The naturalists should appoint a committee to bring about a new coordination between their affiliated societies and also to secure a proper adjustment with the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

7. As soon as the affiliated societies will take this necessary action to place the Society of Naturalists on the footing it should occupy, the membership should be as follows: The membership of the society should still be published, but, since identical with that of its affiliated societies, by simply giving the titles of these societies, and referring to their lists and that of the American Association for addresses, etc. A few who are members of the naturalists, but not of the affiliated societies, should, of course, be added. In addition there should be a statement of the constitution, aims and acts of the society and its function of organizing cooperation in bio-

logical undertakings where combined action is desirable, should be clearly formulated and recognized.

8. The Society of Naturalists should no longer be obliged to collect dues, except from members not belonging to the affiliated societies. Even with its annual fee of one dollar it does not now receive the amount which should come to it under a different organization.

9. The affiliated societies should collect a small annual fee in addition to their own, to be devoted to the purposes of the Society of Naturalists, thus recognizing its usefulness. This would probably give a larger annual total than is now collected from its restricted membership.

10. The society should make the *American Naturalist* its official organ, and this journal should set aside special sections for the publication of articles and discussions bearing on the problems of the society. Dr. McMurrich, the late president of the society, has recently (see *SCIENCE*, March 5, 1908), pointed out in an able manner advisable lines for future development. He has also well expressed the feeling of many members that this society is an important factor in the scientific and educational development of this country, and the above suggestions are not intended to conflict in any way with the common desire that the society shall continue to remain independent, even though a readjustment of its external relations shall permit a more effective cooperation.

H. McE. KNOWER

*Secretary to the American
Society of Naturalists*

NEWS FROM KILAUEA

THIS volcano is now in action. Since 1894 there has been no exhibition at all comparable with that now apparent. Hon. L. A. Thurston, than whom there is no better judge of the conditions, writes as follows to the *Advertiser* issued May 29:

Within the last few weeks the central pit has filled up by the rising of molten lava within its walls until its floor is now only about 200 feet below the floor of the main crater.

At this level, 200 feet below the spectator,