

of departure for new and fruitful work in pneumococcus and similar infections.

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INFECTIOUS DISEASES,
CHICAGO

*THE FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE
GOVERNORS IN NEW ENGLAND*

IN these days of conventions and association gatherings, it is difficult to select one on the grounds of special importance or significance. Among those which I have had the privilege of attending in recent years, the conference held in Boston, November 23 and 24, easily surpassed all others of material import when measured by the importance of the subjects considered and the vast possibility of bettering existing conditions. This was the first annual conference of the Governors of the New England states, called for the purpose of considering certain natural industries and utilities common to all, and legislation affecting them.

The conference was presided over by Governor Curtis Guild, Jr., of Massachusetts, and attended by every governor in office and governor-elect with one exception, namely, Governor Higgins, of Connecticut, "who had married a wife and therefore could not come."

Subjects Considered.—There were three sessions, and each session was devoted to the consideration of one subject, or a correlated group of subjects. The first session was devoted to tree planting interests, and this was divided into two parts: (1) Forest trees and (2) orchard trees.

The forest-tree side was discussed by Mr. Gifford Pinchot, United States forester, who showed impressively how rapidly the forest supplies of the country were decreasing; how vast areas of lands in New England, of little or no value for farming, might be utilized; the profitableness of forests as a commercial enterprise; and then finally urged the passage of uniform legislation in New England providing adequate protection of forest lands against fires. This subject aroused a lively discussion, and drew attention to the reason-

able opportunities for safe investment of capital.

Orchard Trees.—The planting of apple trees on the hilly lands in New England, not in the valley farming lands, was urged by the professor of horticulture of Cornell University. He did this on the ground that New England was the natural home of the apple in the United States, for it was here that the leading commercial varieties of to-day originated; that the land was cheap, that labor was abundant, and markets both foreign and domestic convenient. Moreover, the quality of the New England apple was unsurpassed by that produced in any other section. The demand was keen, and for fruit of fine quality New England markets were the best in the country.

What was needed to improve the situation was reorganization of ideas and practises in relation to orcharding. The slipshod methods of generations and the opening of new irrigated fruit lands in the west discouraged on the one hand the would-be planter, and on the other attracted his attention to the opportunities in distant lands. What in his opinion was now needed was the redirection of capital to apple-growing as a staple and safe industry. We should have illustration orchards, planted and conducted either by men of faith in the business with sufficient capital to back up the enterprise, or by the state governments themselves. Such work should be conducted with the energy characterizing western enterprises, and guided by intelligence and up-to-date methods. Certain legislation was required in order to secure a uniform grade, uniform methods of packing, and certain standard packages.

The second session of the conference was devoted to a consideration of the fast-disappearing lobster and the much-preyed-upon mollusks.

These subjects were discussed by experts and aroused much interest. They proved their contention that these staple sea foods were in a fair way to be exterminated within a measurable length of time, and that without intelligent protection a great natural re-

source of most of the New England states would disappear.

Highways.—The highway problem, of course, aroused an interesting discussion, for here the advocates of the purely utilitarian met the devotees of pleasure on a common ground. Methods of constructing highways, the repair of highways and the influence of the automobile on the life of the highway, were live issues of this general topic. The necessity of constructing trunk lines whereby the leading centers of New England should be directly connected, and the necessity of providing for adequate maintenance, suggested the desirability of cooperation in the prosecution of these purely interstate projects.

The conference was made up then of these three sessions, crowded full of features of interest. In addition to the eleven governors, a number of invited delegates representing the topics mentioned above were present, and were allowed the courtesy of the floor for their periods.

Mr. F. L. Dean, secretary to Governor Guild, acted as executive secretary of the conference and will have charge of printing the report of the proceedings.

A feature of the conference was the masterly, and one might say artistic, way in which the speakers were introduced and the discussion expanded, or repressed as occasion seemed to demand, by the versatile chairman, Governor Guild, of Massachusetts. Undoubtedly the first of a great series of conferences, whereby questions of common import to the New England states shall be considered impartially and uncolored by political surroundings, has been launched, and unquestionably it will be followed by others even more influential in character.

JOHN CRAIG

DR. GIUSEPPE NOBILI

PROFESSOR LORENZO CAMERANO in the *Bollettino dei Musei di Zoologia ed Anatomia comparata della R. Università di Torino*, Vol. XXIII., number 595, announces the death of Dr. Giuseppe Nobili on the fourth of December, 1908, at Omegna, Italy. He was the

son of Dr. Gaudenzio and Adele Antonioli Nobili and was born at Omegna, February 11, 1877. He received his doctor's degree in natural science at the Royal University of Turin in 1899, becoming also an assistant in the Zoological Museum of that University, and later (1903) was made an assistant in the Museum of Comparative Anatomy.

While a student at the university he engaged in some botanical researches and published several interesting notes. He soon, however, turned his attention to zoology and as early as 1896 wrote a paper on the decapod crustaceans collected by Dr. A. Borelli in the Argentine Republic and Paraguay. This was the first of a long series of publications chiefly on Crustacea (Decapoda, Stomatopoda, Isopoda, etc.) based on collections in the museum at Turin, and also in those at Geneva, Genoa, Naples, Paris, Budapest and Madrid. These papers (53 titles in all) contain descriptions of many new genera and species and critical discussions of others, and form an important contribution to our knowledge of the Crustacea. Foremost among them is his monographic work on the decapods and stomatopods of the Red Sea, published in the *Annales des Sciences Naturelles* (9), IV., 1906. Professor Camerano pays a high tribute to the personal character of Dr. Nobili, who, by his unwearying activity, had built up the collections in the Turin Museum, and by his kindness of heart had won the affection and esteem of his associates.

DARWIN ANNIVERSARY ADDRESSES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

THE Biological Club of the University of Chicago has arranged the following program:

February 1—Introductory remarks by President H. P. Judson.

"The World's Debt to Darwin," Professor E. G. Conklin, Princeton University.

February 2—"The World of Thought Before and After the Publication of the Origin of Species," Professor G. H. Mead.

February 4—"Cosmic Evolution," Professor F. R. Moulton.

February 9—"Bridging the Gap between Living and Lifeless," Professor A. P. Mathews.