

comparison, or for further experimentation with the least possible delay. Many substances that are now carried away from universities by students who subsequently abandon chemical research, or which belong to the families of deceased chemists who do not know what to do with them, would thereby be rescued from oblivion, and might ultimately become of the greatest value for a special purpose.

Thirdly, this museum would invite chemical manufacturers to send standard samples of their products, and thereby facilitate the commercial relations between consumer and manufacturer.

To such a museum there could be attached a competent staff of workers for the preparation of materials not otherwise available. In the analysis of samples submitted as official standards, we should have the beginning of that Chemische Reichsanstalt which is now the chief object to which German chemists are directing their attention.

The past twenty years have seen the construction of innumerable teaching laboratories in our vicinity. They have seen an undreamt of development and growth of chemical industry, and, above all, they have seen the coming together of the scattered chemists into a large and powerful society. Now is the time when we should make every effort to direct these forces that we have marshaled toward the attainment of definite objects, and coordinate all our enterprises in those directions that will make for the improvement of the intellectual as well as the material conditions of our beloved city.

MORRIS LOEB

RARE BIRDS IN THE NEW YORK
ZOOLOGICAL PARK

It may be of interest to record the fact that in the collection of living birds in the New York Zoological Park, there are at present an

unusual number of rare species of especial interest to students of evolution. Many are representatives of isolated families or even orders and the majority are neotropical in habitat.

The family Ciconiidae or true storks are represented in the new world by only three species, all of which are now living in the Zoological Park.

The Maguari stork, *Euxenura maguari* (Gmel.), is represented by two specimens, noteworthy as paralleling closely the European white stork, *Ciconia ciconia* in color, but excelling it in size.

The other two American storks are the jabiru, *Mycteria americana* Linn., and wood ibis, *Tantalus loculator* Linn. It is better even for technical purposes to call these by their vulgar than their scientific names, as our over-zealous systematists have recently deftly exchanged their Latin cognomens. Until these new radical changes are approved by some international board, it seems better to use the world-wide *Tantalus* (wood ibis) and *Mycteria* (jabiru).

The former is a common bird always on exhibition, but the jabiru is much rarer, and the splendid individual now in the park is only the second one which we have been able to obtain.

The genus *Chauna* of the order Palamedei-formes is complete, both species of screamer, the black-necked, *C. chavaria* (Linn.), and the crested, *C. cristata* (Swains.), being in the collection.

But the most significant series is of the so-called suborders of Gruiformes or crane-like birds. Four out of the six suborders are represented; the Arami by the limpkin, *Aramus giganteus* (Bonap.); Eurypygæ by the sun-bittern, *Eurypyga helias* (Pall.); Psophiæ by the common, *Psophia crepitans* Linn., and the white-backed trumpeters, *P. leucoptera* Spix.

Finally, the only two species of Dicholophi are both in the collection, viz.: the crested, *Cariama cristata* Linn., and Burmeister's seriema, *Chunga burmeisteri* (Hartl).

Among other noteworthy species of birds may be mentioned both sexes of the harpy eagle, *Thrasaëtus harpyia* (Linn.); two Cali-

fornia condors, *Gymnogyps californianus* (Shaw), one just shedding the last of its natal down while the other, at the age of three years, has just acquired the fully adult head colors and gular swelling; black cockatoo, *Calyptorhynchus banksi* (Lath); satin bower bird, *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus* (Vieill); and sacred ibis, *Ibis æthiopica* (Lath). A pair of ocellated turkeys, *Agriocharis ocellata* (Curv.), just acquiring adult plumage and coloring is perhaps the rarest species in the entire collection.

The series of American warblers is as complete as ever, and an excellent beginning has been made on the birds of our western deserts, as the following list will show: phainopepla, ptilogonys, white-rumped shrike, western blue grosbeak, pyrrhuloxia, house finch, western lark sparrow, lark bunting, gambel sparrow, western vesper sparrow, Abert desert towhee, dickcissel, dwarf, and red-eyed cowbirds, Sonoran redwing, Texas meadowlark, great-tailed grackle, Rio Grande green jay, besides many larger forms such as scaled quail, roadrunner, etc.

C. WILLIAM BEEBE,
Curator of Ornithology

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE 1:1,000,000 MAP OF THE WORLD

At the Fifth International Geographical Congress at Bern, in 1891, Professor Albrecht Penck first proposed that the enlightened nations who were engaged in making maps of their own territories and of other countries should unite upon a common plan for the execution of a general map of the world. He suggested that the scale of the map should be 1:1,000,000, or about 16 miles to the inch, and that the separate sheets of the map should be so bounded by meridians and parallels that any one sheet would match any other except for distortion of projection, no matter by what country either sheet might be made. This proposal led to resolutions and discussions at successive geographic congresses and to several tentative maps made by Germany, France, England and the United States as essays toward the general plan.

At the ninth congress at Geneva in July,

1908, a resolution was presented by Mr. Henry Gannett, of the U. S. Geological Survey, with a view to the formation of an international committee to which should be entrusted the details of arrangement which should lead to more definite cooperation in the preparation of the world map. Following the adoption of that resolution and the recommendations of the committee at Geneva, the British government has recently sent out invitations to Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, Spain and the United States, for a meeting of the committee in London on November 16, to proceed with the standardization of the international map on the scale of 1:1,000,000. The British delegates will consist of representatives of Great Britain, Canada, Australia and India. At this conference the various details essential to an agreement on the preparation of a uniform map will be discussed and it is hoped adjusted.

The United States Geological Survey has for some time past been engaged in compiling maps of portions of the United States on the 1:1,000,000 scale and in accordance with a plan which is believed to embody the principal features on which agreement with other nations is expected.

In view of the interest which it thus has in the results of this conference, Messrs. Bailey Willis and S. J. Kubel, of the U. S. Geological Survey, have been instructed to proceed to London as representatives of the United States.

MR. KENNEDY'S BEQUESTS

By the will of John Stewart Kennedy, the banker of New York City, who died on October 31, in his eightieth year, bequests are made for public purposes amounting to nearly \$30,000,000. Seven of the bequests are of \$2,225,000 each, and are, respectively, for Columbia University, the New York Public Library, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Presbyterian Hospital in New York City, and to three of the boards of the Presbyterian Church. Bequests of \$1,500,000 are made to Robert College, Constantinople, and to the United Charities of New York. Bequests of \$750,000