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DAVID STARR JORDAN

#### PROFESSOR WHITMAN'S COLLECTION OF PIGEONS

BIOLOGICAL investigators will be glad to know that the large and valuable collection of pigeons and birds which were the basis of nearly a score of years' work of the late C. O. Whitman are being maintained and kept together. The material upon which Professor Whitman's extensive evolutionary and natural history investigations were made will thus be available while his manuscripts and records are being arranged for publication.

Very abundant material is at hand for a continuance of studies on hybridization, sex, fertility, instinct, etc., more than is now utilized to its full advantage.

Mrs. Whitman has arranged, as long as it is utilized, to keep together this material, priceless from its history, some of the birds having pedigrees reaching back for a long series of years. The collection has been gathered from all parts of the world, not only through long years which consecration to the work could alone have made possible, but also at great expense of money which could be made use of only through sacrifice. Those

who know best what this has been feel that the collection must be kept to be utilized as long as it will serve its purpose.

It was only in the last months of Professor Whitman's life that facilities for experiments and observation on a much larger scale were secured through the efforts of friends who put at his service the piece of ground adjoining his residence. He at once had built a large number of new cages; and delighted with the prospect of the enlarged opportunities declared that his real work he was just about to begin and that "five years will show."

For these reasons and because Professor Whitman's work became more illuminating as he went on, his family and friends feel that the opportunities so untimely left should be extended to others who wish them. Quarters are also given in the residence alongside the nearly one thousand birds, and Dr. Riddle, now at work with them, will cooperate with the work of others, or assist, or direct, as needed.

The library, which is one of the largest and most complete of biological libraries, is held open for constant use. The volumes are very extensively marked; pencil notes often bringing together from all quarters the various facts bearing on the subject under discussion.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE divisions of vertebrate and invertebrate paleontology and paleobotany in the U. S. National Museum have been combined into a new division of paleontology, with Dr. R. S. Bassler as curator in charge, Mr. J. W. Gidley as assistant curator of fossil mammals and Mr. Charles W. Gilmore, as assistant curator of fossil reptiles.

THE presidents of the sections of the fifteenth International Congress on Hygiene and Demography to be held in Washington from September 23 to 28, 1912, are: (1) Hygiene microbiography and parasitology, Professor Theobald Smith; (2) Dietetic hygiene, Hygienic physiology, Professor R. H. Chittenden; (3) Hygiene of infancy and childhood and school hygiene, Dr. A. Jacobi; (4) Indus-

trial and occupational hygiene, Dr. G. M. Kober; (5) Control of infectious diseases, Dr. Hermann Biggs; (6) State and municipal hygiene, Dr. Frank F. Westbrook; (7) Hygiene of traffic and transportation, Dr. W. Wyman; (8) Military, naval and tropical hygiene, Dr. H. G. Beyer; (9) Demography, Professor Walter J. Willcox.

THE Paris Academy of Sciences has elected as foreign members Dr. Zaboudski, of St. Petersburg, in the section of mechanics, and Professor Perrincito, of Turin, in the section of agriculture.

WE learn from the *British Medical Journal* that in recognition of Sir Patrick Manson's initiative in directing attention to the importance of the study of tropical medicine and of his work in that field of science, an international committee has been formed for the purpose of presenting him with a gold medal bearing his effigy. The medal is to be designed by Dr. Paul Richer, of Paris, who is eminent both as an artist and as a physician.

THE annual meeting of the Society of Chemical Industry was held in July at Sheffield, under the presidency of Mr. Walter F. Reid. Dr. Rudolf Messel, of London, was elected president for the ensuing year.

WE learn from the *Journal* of the American Medical Association that a meeting of the members of the Pennsylvania Pharmaceutical Association, Philadelphia Association of Retail Druggists, Philadelphia Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association and its scientific section, Philadelphia Branch of the American Chemical Society, Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, etc., was held in Philadelphia on July 17 at which strong and vigorous protests were made against the suggested removal of Dr. Wiley; a preamble and resolutions were adopted and sent to President Taft, endorsing and commending Dr. Wiley's work and deploring any movement which would either cause Dr. Wiley to resign at this time or would tend to hamper him in his efforts to make the Food and Drugs Act effective, and thus practically render it a dead letter.

DR. LEONHARD STEJNEGER, head curator of the department of biology, U. S. National