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WILLIAM E. FORD¹

THE RAINEY AFRICAN EXPEDITION

MR. EDMUND HELLER, who represented the Smithsonian Institution on Mr. Paul J. Rainey's African Expedition, writes from Kisumu, British East Africa, January 26, 1912, that the expedition has been completed but that a delay has been caused in the shipment of specimens collected by Mr. Rainey and himself, due to the lack of porters, transportation facilities, etc. The collection, which arrived at Nairobi two weeks prior to the date of his letter, has been packed and forwarded by him to the Smithsonian Institution. While waiting for a steamer from Mombasa, Mr. Heller put in a couple of months in making collections at various stations of the Uganda Railroad, including some districts not touched by the Smithsonian Expedition under Colonel Roosevelt, and also about Lake Victoria Nyanza. By this means he has been able to add many species to the Smithsonian collection, as well as to finish a really complete survey of the mammals of British East Africa. He will probably spend a few weeks at the British Museum, and at the Berlin Museum, in comparing and identifying some of the specimens collected. The trip was most satisfactory in every way, and Mr. Heller estimates that the collection will rival that made by the Smithsonian African Expedition under Mr. Roosevelt in 1909 and 1910. In all there are about 700 large mammal skins in salt, 4,000 small mammal skins, and a large number of

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birds and reptiles, most of them coming from regions not visited by the previous expedition, while some are from remote localities never before visited by naturalists. After the completion of his studies in Europe, Mr. Heller will return to Washington, to complete his report on the mammals of British East Africa.

THE PACIFIC ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

THE second annual meeting of the Pacific Association of Scientific Societies will be held at Stanford University on April 4, 5, 6, 1912. Sessions will be held this year on one or more of the above days by the following eight societies:

The Technical Society of the Pacific Coast.

The Cordilleran Section of the Geological Society of America.

The Seismological Society of America.

Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association.

The Pacific Slope Association of Economic Entomologists.

Pacific Paleontological Society.

The Biological Society of the Pacific.

The California Section of the American Chemical Society.

There will also meet with the Association the LeConte Club and the Mathematical Society of the Pacific Coast.

Friday evening will be used generally for dinners and banquets, and on Saturday evening will be held the general session of the association. President Jordan will give the address of welcome, and among the readers of papers will be Professor A. C. Lawson, University of California, Professor George Hempl, Stanford University, and Director W. W. Campbell, of the Lick Observatory.

The Pacific Association of Scientific Societies was organized in 1910 "to promote co-operation among the constituent societies." It is to make possible the getting together of a number of smaller isolated societies annually at the same time and place. The administrative machinery of the association is an Executive Committee composed of the presidents and secretaries, or their representatives, of the constituent societies. The principal business of this committee is to suggest

time and place of meeting and make arrangements for such meetings.

Nine Coast Societies became members the first year:

The Technical Society of the Pacific coast.

The Cordilleran Section of the Geological Society of America.

The Seismological Society of America.

Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association.

The Pacific Slope Association of Economic Entomologists.

Pacific Coast Paleontological Society.

The Philological Society of the Pacific Coast.

The Cooper Ornithological Club.

California Academy of Sciences.

The second year two more societies became members:

The Biological Society of the Pacific.

The California Section of the American Chemical Society.

The present officers of the association are:

Chairman of the Executive Committee, Mr. Otto von Geldern.

Vice-chairman, Professor George D. Louderback.

Secretary-treasurer, Professor J. N. Bowman.

The first meeting of the association was held at the University of California on March 31-April 1, 1911. The different societies accepting the suggested time and place, held their sessions on the campus; on Saturday evening the general session of the association convened in California Hall. At this session addresses and papers were given by Chairman Otto von Geldern, President Benjamin Ide Wheeler, President David Starr Jordan, Professor Vernon Kellogg, Mr. George W. Dickie and Professor Bernard Moses. The same general plan will be followed this year at the second annual meeting at Stanford University. The work of the various secretaries is greatly facilitated by the committee on arrangements appointed by President Jordan and composed of Professors Townley, Heath and Burlingame.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

MR. SAMUEL HENSHAW has been appointed director of the Museum of Comparative Zoology of Harvard University.