

in 1910; third, to ascertain definitely the limits of the so-called Bogotá region whence, for the past seventy-odd years specimens collected by natives, but unaccompanied by data of any kind have been received; fourth, to collect a series of topotypical specimens from the Bogotá region. The expedition included Mr. Frank M. Chapman, and Messrs. George K. Cherrie, first assistant, Louis Agassiz Fuertes, artist, Thomas Ring, Paul G. Howes and Geoffrey O'Connell, volunteer assistants. This party left Barranquilla on January 19, and during the voyage of twelve days up the Magdalena River to Honda, by taking advantage of every opportunity when the boat stopped for cargo or fuel, collected three hundred birds. Studies for the habitat group were made at El Consuelo, on the western slope of the Eastern Andes, 2,700 feet above Honda; from this point a superb view is had of the Magdalena Valley, through which the river winds picturesquely, while in the background the Central Cordillera rises crowned by the three great snow peaks, Tolima, Isabel and Ruiz, each of which has an approximate altitude of 18,000 feet. Having completed its work in this region, the expedition journeyed by mule to Bogotá, making this city its headquarters during the remainder of its stay in Colombia. From Bogotá it passed first to the eastward to Villavicencio, at the eastern base of the Andes, stopping *en route* at all favorable localities. On reaching Villavicencio, the section through the Andes from the Pacific coast to the upper drainage of the Orinoco was completed, and data are now in hand for the determination of the altitudinal life zones of the Colombian Andes. A month later the expedition returned to Bogotá and passed southward to Fusugasuga, encountering there entirely different species from those which it had met with in its journey to the eastward. In all, some 2,300 birds and about 100 mammals were secured, and the diversity and richness of the avifauna is illustrated by the fact that no less than 505 species of birds were secured during the comparatively brief period when the expedition was actually in the field.

At the annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research, May 5, 1913,

the following resolution (the report of the committee on statistics and public education) was unanimously adopted: "It is the sentiment of this association that: (1) the present instruction of medical students in the symptoms and early diagnosis of cancer is seriously deficient; (2) the medical curriculum should include special lectures in the clinical departments dealing specifically with this subject; (3) the universities should provide competent lecturers in this subject to address the local medical societies; (4) the associate members of the association should be urged to take up the question of the proper methods of approaching the public on the subject of cancer; (5) the activities of this association should at present be chiefly confined to the education of the medical profession; (6) this resolution shall be sent to the deans of the medical schools and the secretaries of the state medical societies in the United States and published in the medical press."

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

PUBLIC bequests aggregating \$170,000 are provided in the will of Charles D. Sias, of Boston. Dartmouth College, the University of Vermont and Montpelier, Vt., Academy will eventually receive \$15,000 each.

MRS. GUSTAVUS F. SWIFT and her son, Mr. Edward F. Swift, of Chicago, recently gave \$10,000 toward the maintenance of the college of engineering of Northwestern University—an annual contribution since the opening of the college of engineering in 1908. Mr. Joseph Schaffner, of Hart, Schaffner and Marx, of Chicago, has given \$12,500 toward the maintenance of the school of commerce of the university.

MISS JEANIE POLLOCK, of Glasgow, has bequeathed £10,000 to Glasgow University for providing a materia medica research lectureship.

THE Atlanta College of Physicians and Surgeons and the Atlanta School of Medicine have been consolidated under the name of the Atlanta Medical College.

DR. JOHN H. LONG, professor of chemistry in Northwestern University since 1881, has

been appointed dean of the school of pharmacy of Northwestern University, to succeed the late Oscar Oldberg.

DEAN DAVID KINLEY, of the graduate school, University of Illinois, has been elected vice-president of the university for one year beginning July 1, 1913, at the meeting of the trustees on July 2. He succeeds Dr. T. J. Burrill, who retired from active duties last year.

ALEXANDER GEORGE MCADIE, professor of meteorology in the Weather Bureau and director of the California climate section, has been elected director of the Blue Hill Observatory and professor of meteorology at Harvard University.

DR. F. J. ALWAY, head professor of agricultural chemistry in the University of Nebraska and chemist of the Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station, has been appointed professor of soil chemistry and chief of the division of soils in the University of Minnesota. Dr. Fred Upson, of the University of Chicago, has been appointed to succeed Dr. Alway in the University of Nebraska.

DR. JAMES R. NYDEGGER, of the United States Public Health Service, has been elected professor of tropical medicine in the University of Maryland.

MR. W. G. FEARNSIDES, fellow and lecturer in natural sciences at Sidney Sussex College, and demonstrator in petrology in the University of Cambridge, has been appointed to the Sorby chair of geology at Sheffield University.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

NOMENCLATURE IN PALEONTOLOGY

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I ask the courtesy of your columns to explain certain allusions in a recent contribution which seem to have been somewhat misunderstood by my good friend Dr. Peale. In criticizing a prevalent custom in vertebrate paleontology of identifying as to genus and species very fragmentary material which is not really exactly identifiable, I spoke of its having "sadly misled" him into presenting as conclusive evi-

dence of identity in age a correspondence in fauna (*i. e.*, in the fauna as listed) that was really no evidence at all. The criticism was in no wise directed at Dr. Peale, as he seems to suppose, nor at individual vertebrate paleontologists, but at a prevalent custom in this branch of science which I think ought to be amended. Naturally, Dr. Peale is perfectly justified in depending upon the published lists (*if* they have not since been criticized or amended or new and better evidence secured); and vertebrate paleontologists are presumably justified in following the customs of their tribe. But this is a vicious custom, and the fact that it misled so eminent a stratigrapher was cited as an instance of the harm it does.

Dr. Peale finds it "interesting to have a vertebrate paleontologist make the statement that 'correspondence in fauna is not conclusive evidence of identity in age.'" Well, I am not so rash as to say that it *is*, without making a number of reservations as to adequacy, presentation and interpretation of the evidence, etc. (for certain other considerations see article in *Bull. Geol. Soc. America* for 1913, p. 283). But I did not make the statement he attributes to me, if I understand the meaning of words, and considering the context in which I was using them in the cited article. I was discussing faunal lists based upon specimens too fragmentary for exact identification. Such a "correspondence in fauna" is *not* conclusive proof of identity in age. That does not mean that vertebrate paleontology has no place in stratigraphic geology. Fossil vertebrates, provided the material is adequate and the identifications correct, afford a much more exact geological timepiece than do invertebrates or plants. But the material is always scanty and often inadequate, and the degree to which this is true must in each case be taken into consideration in interpreting their evidence. Furthermore, owing partly to the greater exactness of our timepiece, we are conscious of certain normal deviations from accuracy—if one may so speak—regional, environmental, etc., which although their effects upon the existing flora as well as fauna are obvious