

on a wide range of subjects, never giving up his interest in the classics. In every way Peirce was a living example of that breadth of character and interest which has so often been characteristic of great scientists, but which the specialist is so commonly supposed to lack.

Peirce's scientific activity was rewarded with many distinctions. In 1906 he was elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences. He was also a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the American Philosophical Society, member of the American Mathematical and American Physical Societies, of the Astronomical and Astrophysical Society of America, the Société Française de Physique, and the Circolo Matematico di Palermo. He was one of the founders of the American Physical Society, and was last year elected its president. The election would have been renewed this year, but just before the meeting Peirce, evidently feeling his inability to discharge the duties of the office, had a notice sent out urging members not to vote for him. Unfortunately his misgivings were justified. In 1910 Harvard conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Science.

Professor Peirce married, on July 27, 1882, at Edinburgh, Scotland, Miss Isabella Turnbull Landreth, by whom, with two daughters, he is survived. At his funeral Appleton chapel was crowded with colleagues and students, but the number of friends who will never forget his influence is far greater than could be contained in any building.

ARTHUR GORDON WEBSTER

*THE BRYANT WALKER EXPEDITION, OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, TO
THE SANTA MARTA MOUNTAINS,
COLOMBIA, IN THE SUM-
MER OF 1913*

THIS expedition, sent out from the museum of zoology, was organized to do zoological work in and about the west end of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, in northeastern Colombia. The plan of the work was that adopted for all expeditions sent by the museum to

regions outside of the state of Michigan. Relatively small areas where a variety of conditions prevailed were located, and these were examined for those groups of animals to which the members of the museum staff are giving most attention. Particular study was made of the habits and local distribution of the species, and the results were preserved as specimens, notes and photographs of specimens and environments.

The party consisted of A. S. Pearse, of the University of Wisconsin, F. M. Gaige, of the University of Michigan, and the writer (in charge); and the groups which received most attention were the reptiles, amphibians, ants, crustaceans and molluscs. The collections of these forms may be summarized as follows: reptiles and amphibians, about 1,000 specimens; ants, 603 lots; crustaceans, 140 lots; molluscs, 150 lots. Small collections of other groups were made by preserving such material as was discovered, the collecting being restricted to a few forms which could be secured in series without interfering with the regular work. The groups which received such attention are leeches, earthworms, myriapods, scorpions, beetles, the genus *Peripatus*, and fishes. The other material secured consists almost entirely of specimens of those forms needed for illustrative purposes or as additions to the synoptic collections in the museum.

The expedition reached Santa Marta on July 1 and at once proceeded to an elevation of 4,500 feet. From this point a strip of territory from 2,200 feet to 8,300 feet (the summit of San Lorenzo) was explored for twenty-six days. On July 27 the party moved to the plain and spent nine days in continuing the explored strip from 2,200 feet to the foot of the range. The remainder of the time until September 1 was given to the investigation of the lowlands in three places—about Santa Marta, at Fundacion and on the Salamanca coast near Cienaga.

Not a little of the success of the expedition is to be attributed to the assistance and hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Flye and the members of their family, Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Carriker, Mr. William A. Trout, consular agent

at Santa Marta, and Mr. Robert Sargent, Americans residing near Santa Marta. Through their efforts the party was provided with splendid facilities for field work and received substantial assistance in gathering material. The Colombian government permitted the free entrance of the equipment.

The collections of the expedition are now being studied by a number of investigators, and the results will be published from time to time as the studies are completed.

ALEXANDER G. RUTHVEN

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THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

A CORRESPONDENT at the University of Illinois asks us to print the following communication:

In order to ascertain whether or not a persistent rumor that he had not the support of the faculty, was true, President Edmund J. James, of the University of Illinois, submitted the matter to a referendum vote of those of the faculty elected for two years or longer. The result was overwhelmingly against the rumor—188 expressing confidence in the president as against four who voted in the negative. At a later meeting a vote of instructors and assistants—those holding positions of one year tenure—revealed an even greater degree of confidence, but one dissenting voice arising. The latter meeting was called on the initiative of the men themselves.

The procedure was unique in American universities. Indeed the American university system has been criticized to the effect that the president or head has the power of an autocrat. Autocratic power, all history shows, is unsafe in any man's hands, as it soon becomes too dear to his heart. Therefore when a man elected to the presidency of a great university voluntarily submits the question of his own efficiency to the vote—a secret ballot—of his force, the act has signal significance.

During the ten years that Dr. James has served as president the university has made phenomenal growth in revenue, equipment, faculty, attendance and general standing. The commonwealth has been liberal; trustees, members of the faculty, alumni and other friends of the university have cooperated heartily in bringing about this result. The presi-

dent felt, naturally, that he also had been a factor in this upbuilding, that unless this was so after ten years of persistent and laborious work, his presence in such an institution as its head was a mistake. As a consequence he submitted the following to a referendum vote of the faculty: "I want to know whether in your opinion my administration as president of the University of Illinois during the past ten years has been liberal and progressive, and has promoted the substantial development of the institution on broad and scholarly lines, and whether as president I have the regard and cooperation of the faculty. On this proposition I ask you to vote either yes or no."

The result on a secret ballot was, as stated above, 188 to 4, in favor of confidence in the president.

Previous to this endorsement by the faculty the Illini Club of Chicago, consisting of 1,000 graduates, had expressed to the president their most unqualified approval in a set of resolutions passed at its annual business meeting.

Following this the pastors of some nineteen churches in the twin cities of Urbana-Champaign, including the Y. M. C. A.'s, Methodists, Catholics, and practically all denominations represented in the cities, sent a special delegation bearing a series of signed resolutions to President James expressing their confidence in him and their pleasure in the many evidences of the university's progress.

Still later the Alumnae Association of Chicago addressed a letter to President James saying among other things. "It is the earnest hope and wish of every member that you continue to serve as president in the work which has made possible the constant growth, the increasing influence and the general development of the University of Illinois."

THE CARNEGIE INSTITUTION EXPOSITION TO TORRES STRAITS

THE expedition of the department of marine biology of the Carnegie Institution of Washington has returned from the region of Torres Straits where it visited the islands between New Guinea and Cape York, Australia, remaining for the greater part of the time upon Maer Island, one of the Murray Islands, on the outer edge of the Great Barrier Reef south of the Bligh Entrance.

In response to Ambassador Bryce's letters of introduction the Governor of Queensland and