

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

MUSEUM OF ZOOLOGY,
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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