

discussions which took place afterward around the refreshment tables in the library augured well for the success of the new series of lectures.

It is the plan of the committee in charge to hold these gatherings on the first and third Wednesdays of each month until the middle of May. A large number of important communications have been promised by many officers of the various scientific establishments about Boston and Cambridge. Among these may be mentioned especially Professor M. L. Fernald who at the next meeting will speak upon the Flora of Block Island in Relation to that of Cape Cod. At the third meeting Professor Wallace W. Atwood will address the society on Mesa Verde, with remarks upon the ancient cliff dwellings in that region. Papers have also been promised by Professor W. M. Davis, on his recent researches on the Reefs of the South Pacific, by Professors J. B. Woodworth, P. E. Raymond, R. A. Daly, C. T. Brues, G. H. Parker, R. T. Jackson, H. W. Shimer, C. Palache, as well as by Dr. H. B. Bigelow and Mr. C. W. Johnson, the curator of the society's museum.

Many changes have been made in the Museum building since the lectures were discontinued five years ago. The lecture hall has been completely renovated and reequipped throughout, so that it is now an attractive and cheerful meeting place. Even greater changes may be seen in the other parts of the building. The museum has definitely decided to lay special emphasis on exhibits of New England natural history and with this end in view has entered into a scheme of cooperation with the University Museum in Cambridge. The long unused collections of foreign material are being sent there and the space devoted to exhibits of modern groups of New England mammals and birds. The other branches of New England natural history are also being appropriately displayed.

#### *THE PROPOSED TORONTO MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION*

THE University of Toronto and the scientific men of the city had extended a cordial

invitation to the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Affiliated Societies to meet in Toronto a year hence. The circumstances which will make this impossible are explained in the following letters, addressed to Dr. L. O. Howard, permanent secretary of the association. Dr. Robert W. Falconer, president of the university, writes:

I have had a meeting of the committee which the university appointed to make arrangements for the reception of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which accepted our invitation to meet here a year ago from next December. Our committee had been intending to use every effort to make the meeting a highly successful one, and we were hoping to create a widespread interest in the association. However, the outbreak of this terrible war has made an entirely new situation. At present the war hangs over us like a cloud so heavily that it would be very hard indeed for us to arouse interest in a scientific meeting. Also, the financial situation is anything but promising. We can not hazard any conjecture as to the length of the war, though we are making preparations on the assumption that it may last for another year at least. What condition we shall be in then no one can tell. Our committee thought that it was only right that I should thus place our conditions before you at this early stage on the chance that you might be able to change the place of meeting and come to us later, at a time when we shall be able to give you a welcome that we would be anxious to accord the association.

Professor J. C. Fields writes on behalf of the local committee:

At a meeting of the local executive committee we had an extended discussion on the prospects of the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science to which we folks up here were all looking forward with so much interest. In view of the conditions already induced by the war and the uncertainty of the future it was the general disappointed sense of the members that we might not be in a position to arouse sufficient local interest or otherwise be able to assure such a success as we should wish for the meeting. Here everything is disorganized by the war and its issues overshadow everything else. Students and members of the faculty are drilling and many are likely to go to the front, so that we hardly know what will be the position of affairs here by this time next year. The members of the committee

thought that you might perhaps still be able to arrange for a meeting-place a year from December and that the association would do us the honor of meeting here some time later on when we have reverted to normal conditions.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

At the Philadelphia meeting Section C will hold a session on the afternoon of Thursday, December 31, for the reading of papers, and a second session, jointly with Section K and the Society of American Bacteriologists, on Friday, January 1, at 10 A.M. The latter will be devoted to a symposium on "The Lower Organisms in Relation to Man's Welfare," for which the following program has been arranged:

"Theories of Fermentation," Vice-president C. L. Alsberg.

The general mechanism of the action of ferments:

"Enzyme Action," C. S. Hudson.

A discussion of the chemical changes involved in the action of enzymes:

"Rôle of Microorganisms in the Intestinal Canal," A. I. Kendall.

"Use of Bacteria in the Treatment of Textile Fibers," F. P. Gorham.

"Microorganisms in their Application to Agriculture," C. E. Marshall.

SECTION K (Physiology and Experimental Medicine) will hold two meetings in Philadelphia during Convocation Week.

1. Thursday, December 31, 2 P.M. Laboratory of Hygiene, University of Pennsylvania.

Vice-presidential address: Dr. Theodore Hough,

"The Classification of Nervous Reactions."

Symposium on Ventilation (jointly with the Society of American Bacteriologists):

(a) "Air-borne Diseases," Dr. A. C. Abbott, University of Pennsylvania.

(b) "Fundamental Physical Problems of Ventilation," Dr. E. B. Phelps, United States Hygienic Laboratory.

(c) "Standards of Ventilation—Hygienic and Æsthetic," Dr. C.-E. A. Winslow, New York State Commission of Ventilation.

(d) "Modern Developments in Air Conditions," Mr. D. D. Kimball, New York State Commission of Ventilation.

2. Friday, January 1, 11 A.M. Laboratory of Hygiene, University of Pennsylvania.

Symposium on the Life of the Lower Organisms in Relation to Man's Welfare (jointly with Section C and the Society of American Bacteriologists).

The program will be announced later.

THE program for Section M, Agriculture, is now complete. A single session will be held, on December 30, in the engineering building of the University of Pennsylvania, beginning at 2 P.M. The president of the association, Dr. Charles W. Eliot, will preside at the opening of the session, during the presentation of the address of the vice-president, Dr. L. H. Bailey, on "The Place of Research and of Publicity in the Forthcoming Country Life Development." A symposium will follow, on The Field of Rural Economics, participated in by the following speakers:

"Rural Economics from the Standpoint of the Farmer," Hon. Carl Vrooman, assistant secretary of agriculture.

"Credit and Agriculture," Professor G. N. Lauerman, college of agriculture, Cornell University.

"Marketing and Distribution Problems," Mr. C. J. Brand, chief officer of markets, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

"The Distinction between Efficiency in Production and Efficiency in Bargaining," Dr. T. N. Carver, Harvard University.

A DINNER was given in Boston on December 7 to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the connection of Professor Robert H. Richards with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as student and teacher. The speakers were President Richard C. Maclaurin, in behalf of the institute; Mr. Eben S. Stevens of the same graduating class with Professor Richards, '68, of Quinebaug, Conn., in behalf of his fellows at the school; Professor Chas. R. Cross, '70, in behalf of the faculty and Jasper Whiting, '89, president of the Alumni Association in behalf of his association. The presentation was made to the institute of a portrait of Professor Richards by Miss Margaret F. Richardson, of Boston. It presents him, seated, considering a question which the open letter in his hand has brought to him.