

brief though important contributions to bird anatomy.

The interest of the veteran ornithologist, Mr. Oberholser, has also been aroused, and therefore it is likely that additional good results will be forthcoming.

Thus matters seem to stand at the present time, and there is hardly any room for doubt but what an added interest is being taken in this most important branch of biology. If it be genuine and progressive, American science is to be heartily congratulated; should it lead to the appointment of a curator of the department of bird anatomy—of one who understands the *aims* and *needs* of such a department and who has the *energy* to make it in time what it should be, I feel sure that there are congratulations in waiting when such a happy sequel materializes.

Personally, I have always regretted that the division of comparative anatomy of the U. S. National Museum was dissolved, as this was a *prima facie* evidence of a stage of decadence setting in, in a very vital part of the scientific organism. It should be put on foot again in full force, and brought up to the standard where it properly belongs. We are terribly wasteful in such matters; the absence of a division of comparative anatomy in the United States National Museum can only be equaled by the present and corresponding deficiency in the matter of a prosectorial department connected with the National Zoological Park at Washington, where animals frequently die and no attempt is made whatever to examine and report upon their anatomy.

America is coming to the front in many things now besides in what the dollar means, and it should be the aim of science to look well to it that this field is brought properly into line.

R. W. SHUFELDT

WASHINGTON, D. C.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. PERCIVAL LOWELL and Professor F. Schlesinger have been elected honorary fellows of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

PROFESSOR S. W. WILLISTON, of the department of geology and paleontology of the Uni-

versity of Chicago, has been appointed director of the Walker Museum.

PROFESSOR J. G. SANDERS has resigned as state entomologist of Wisconsin to become economic zoologist of Pennsylvania. His work at Harrisburg begins on September 16, 1916. Dr. S. B. Fracker has been appointed acting state entomologist of Wisconsin by the commissioner of agriculture, and will have charge of the work of the state entomologist's office until a successor to Professor Sanders is appointed.

C. H. HADLEY, JR., of the department of entomology of Cornell University, has been appointed extension entomologist at the Pennsylvania State College.

DR. ROBERT ARMSTRONG-JONES has retired from the post of medical superintendent of the London County Lunatic Asylum. A special pension has been awarded to him on the recommendation of the Asylums Committee of the London County Council.

DR. LINSLEY R. WILLIAMS, deputy commissioner of the New York State department of health, has been appointed by Governor Whitman to conduct an investigation into the proposed building of a garbage disposal plant for New York City on Staten Island.

THE Mississippi Valley Conference on tuberculosis will be held at Louisville, Ky., from October 4 to 6, under the presidency of Walter D. Thurber, of Chicago.

MR. WELLINGTON JONES, of the department of geography, University of Chicago, is traveling in eastern Asia in preparation for the giving of courses in the geography of Asia.

THE faculty of medicine of the University of Toronto, which suffered from the enlisting of professors for service in connection with the University Base Hospital, will be strengthened by the return of Dr. John J. MacKenzie, professor of pathology and bacteriology, and Dr. Benjamin P. Watson, professor of obstetrics and gynecology.

DURING July the botanical laboratory of the Purdue Experiment Station at Lafayette, Ind., had the services of Dr. Frank D. Kern and Professor C. R. Orton, of the Pennsylvania

State College; Dr. F. D. Fromme, of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and Mr. C. A. Ludwig, research student of the University of Michigan, all former members of the laboratory staff. They came to assist in the preparation of the remaining parts of the Uredinales for the "North American Flora."

PROFESSOR LAWRENCE MARTIN, of the University of Wisconsin, assisted by Mr. F. T. Thwaites, had a class of 22 men doing field work in geology and geography in the Devil's Lake region (Wis.), during the month of August.

WE learn from the *Journal* of the American Medical Association that the International Health Board has taken up the consideration of the subject of malaria under the phases of geographic distribution and district of infection. Two sets of experiments to test the practicability of malaria control are being carried out; one, the detection of the carriers and freeing them of the parasites, and the other a combination of control measures. The first experiment is being carried out in Bolivar County, Miss., under the administration of the Mississippi Department of Health, with Dr. Walter S. Leathers, University, as administering director and Dr. Charles C. Bass, New Orleans, as scientific director. The field force and microscopists have received their technical training in the laboratory of Tulane University. The second series of experiments is being carried out in Arkansas in cooperation with the United States Public Health Service, under the charge of Surgeon Rudolph H. von Ezdorf.

THE annual New England forestry conference under the auspices of the Society for the Protection of Forests and the New Hampshire State Forestry Commission, was held at the Crawford House, last week. At the formal opening of the conference addresses were made by William L. Hall, chief purchasing agent of the government under the Weeks' Act, and by William P. Wharton, of Groton. At the general sessions Professor Filibert Roth, director of the forest school in the University of Michigan, presented a paper showing how an

owner of a wood-lot may estimate the value of his woods. There were addresses by Arthur A. Shurtleff, of Boston; Dr. B. E. Fernow, president of the Society of American Foresters, and dean of the forestry school of the University of Toronto, and by Professor James A. Toumey, director of the Yale Forest School.

OFFICERS of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education elected at the annual meeting are: *President*, G. R. Chatburn, University of Nebraska; *First Vice-president*, Hollis Godfrey, Drexel Institute; *Second Vice-president*, W. M. Thornton, University of Virginia; *Secretary*, F. L. Bishop, University of Pittsburgh; *Treasurer*, W. O. Wiley, New York, N. Y.; *Members of the Council to serve for three years*, E. J. McCaustland, University of Missouri; F. G. Higbee, State University of Iowa; R. W. Gay, Mississippi College; T. E. French, the Ohio State University; A. H. Blanchard, Columbia University; A. A. Potter, Kansas State Agricultural College; Wm. H. Browne, Jr., North Carolina College.

DR. CHARLES R. BARDEEN, professor of anatomy and dean of the medical school of the University of Wisconsin, delivered an address on August 31 before the graduate school of medical sciences of the University of Illinois on "Study of the Anatomy of the Heart in the Living by the Use of the Roentgen Ray."

THE United States Civil Service Commission announces an examination for scientific assistant, for men only, on October 4, to fill vacancies in the positions of scientific assistant and field assistant at \$900 to \$1,400 per annum in the Bureau of Fisheries, Department of Commerce.

THE Wellcome Historical Medical Museum, London, will be closed until September 30, when it will reopen with a loan exhibition illustrating the folk-lore of London, including medical charms, amulets and other objects found to have been used by the superstitious in connection with the cure and prevention of disease.

THROUGH a gift from Sir Charles Parsons the British National Physical Laboratory has

made arrangements, at the request of the Röntgen Society, for the examination of materials employed for the protection of X-ray workers.

We learn from the *British Medical Journal* that the late Miss Mary Hamilton, of Glasgow, left £165,000 to Scottish institutions, including £30,000 to the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, for a Hamilton ward and £7,500 for ordinary purposes; £10,000 to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary for ordinary purposes; £7,500 each to the Glasgow Hospital for Sick Children and the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary; £7,500 to the Victoria Infirmary, Glasgow; £5,000 to the Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Incurables; and £1,000 each to the Glasgow Ophthalmic Institution, Glasgow Hospital for Diseases of the Ear, Nose and Throat, and the Glasgow Eye Infirmary.

It is stated in *Nature* that at the meeting of the City of London Court of Common Council, on July 20, it was resolved: (1) That in view of the great advantages which would accrue to British commerce in foreign markets by the use of the decimal system of coinage and weights and measures, in the opinion of this court it is desirable that steps should be taken to ensure its immediate introduction, so that it may be already in operation at the conclusion of the war; (2) that in view of the fact that England and the Allies are entering into arrangements for concerted action with regard to future trade matters, it would be of immense value if one language could be recognized as the commercial language, and taught in all schools, here and abroad. By so doing, English, French, Russian, Esperanto or any other language decided on would form the basis of communication on business matters throughout the world.

At the fifty-third meeting of the American Chemical Society, to be held in New York City during the last week of September, the division of biological chemistry will hold, on Wednesday morning, September 27, a joint session with the division of physical and inorganic chemistry to discuss theoretical colloid chemistry. On Thursday morning a joint

session with the division of industrial chemists and chemical engineers will be held to discuss the practical applications of colloid chemistry. On Friday and Saturday mornings the division of biological chemistry will meet for the presentation and discussion of the papers of its regular program. Papers on colloidal chemistry are as follows:

- D. B. Lake, "Irreversible Absorption of Dyes."
- A. B. Macallum, "Surface Tension of Protoplasm."
- G. H. A. Clowes, "Phase Relations in Biological Systems."
- W. D. Bancroft, "Displacement of Equilibrium of Catalytic Agents."
- E. F. Farnan, "Stabilization."
- E. L. Mack, "Showerproofing."
- J. M. Ball, "The Photographic Developer."
- Irving Langmuir, "Structure of Liquids with Particular Reference to Surface Tension."
- T. R. Briggs, "Electrical Endosmose."
- Charles Baskerville, "Refining of Oils."
- C. J. Fink, "Relation between Chemical Composition and Electrical Resistance."
- T. R. Briggs, "Paints."
- L. A. Keane, "Yellow Bricks."
- D. Spence, "Vulcanization of Rubber."
- A. W. Davison, "Adsorption of Chromium Hide Powder."
- A. W. Fisher, "Adsorption of Sulphuric Acid by Hide Powder."
- Clifford Richardson, "Asphalt."
- L. A. Keane, "Plaster of Paris."
- Jerome Alexander, "Selective Adsorption and Differential Diffusion."
- H. W. Gillett, "Emulsion and Suspensions with Molten Metals."
- C. L. Parsons, "The Purification of Kaolin."
- W. D. Bancroft, "Fritting and Fusing."

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE University of Chicago has received a fund to create the Edith Barnard Memorial Fellowship in Chemistry. Miss Barnard, who was instructor in the department of chemistry when she died, had received three degrees in science from the university, that of bachelor of science in 1903, that of master of science in 1905, and that of doctor of philosophy in 1907; and she had been connected with the department for ten years.