

letter from him reports as follows: "My recent trip, to Che Kiang was brought to a summary close by the outbreak in that region. I could not get any transport and very nearly had my retreat cut off. Nothing can be done until the provinces have come to an agreement as to just how the government is to be run. There is only north Chili (a province of China) left to work in and I hope to go there in the autumn. China is in such an unsettled state that if it were not for the war in Europe it would be attracting everybody's attention. Conditions are no better than they were during the revolution of 1911."

Dr. W. L. Abbott, who has enabled the institution to take part in much field work during the past thirty years, and who is now financing the explorations of Mr. Raven, has made a short collecting trip to Santo Domingo. On this island, which was the scene of Dr. Abbott's earliest expedition, in 1883, he collected a number of mammals, birds, reptiles, mollusks, insects and Indian relics.

Mr. John B. Henderson, a regent of the Smithsonian Institution, has conducted a series of dredgings from his yacht *Eolis* off Key West, Florida. Owing to the exceptionally good weather conditions and to the fact that the Gulf Stream had receded much farther off shore than is usual, the party was enabled to carry on most successful operations upon the Pourtales Plateau. This is a strip of rocky bottom off the Florida Keys extending some forty or fifty miles and lying between the depths of 100 and 200 fathoms. It is one of the richest localities in American waters with a fauna peculiarly its own. The material collected covers all groups of marine invertebrates.

Dr. Paul Bartsch, of the National Museum staff, and Mr. John B. Henderson, also collected in Cuba, the Florida Keys, and in Florida, where marine invertebrates were secured by dredging. The Cerion Colonies composed of land mollusks from the Bahamas, planted some time ago by Dr. Bartsch in the Florida Keys, as an experiment to discover the effect of the environment, were examined. Observations and notes were also made on the birds seen on the islands visited.

#### APPROPRIATIONS OF THE GENERAL EDUCATION BOARD

THE General Education Board, disbursing moneys from the John D. Rockefeller Fund for the promotion of education, has announced annual appropriations amounting to \$878,004. It is announced also that since the University of Chicago has raised \$3,461,500 for its medical school, subscriptions of the General Education Board and of the Rockefeller Foundation, amounting to \$2,000,000, become valid at once.

By a final gift of \$350,000 to the Johns Hopkins Medical School the board announced that it had completed its contribution of \$1,750,000 for full-time medical teaching in that institution. When the board announced the first of its gifts for the reorganization of the departments of medicine, surgery and pediatrics in Johns Hopkins, the total contributions were set at \$1,400,000.

Aims of the board in making the gift were expressed then by the Rev. F. T. Gates, then chairman, in these words: "We think it important that the clinical subjects should be cultivated and taught by men freed from the distraction involved in earning their living through private practise. They will henceforth be in a position to do any service that either science or humanity demands." The fund thus completed is known as the William H. Welch Endowment for Clinical Education and Research.

In announcing the release of the money for the University of Chicago the board added that its policy was to "use its funds with a view to inducing others to cooperate toward the same ends. Thus its contributions for nearly all purposes are supplemented by other gifts secured through the cooperation of the General Education Board."

Annual appropriations to other funds and for other educational purposes as planned in former years were:

To Monmouth College, Monmouth, Ill., \$60,000 toward a total of \$250,000.

To Ottawa University, Ottawa, Kan., \$100,000 toward a total of \$400,000.

For professors of secondary education in state universities, \$35,130.

For state agents for rural schools, \$53,200.

For rural education of negroes, \$50,974.

For current support of negro colleges and industrial schools, \$102,200.

For farm demonstrations, including canning club work and boys' corn and tomato clubs in Maine and New Hampshire, \$36,500.

Additional appropriations for various projects, aggregating \$80,000, of which the sum of \$50,000 was given for the purpose of promoting educational studies and research.

In making this last appropriation of \$50,000 for educational research the board is continuing a policy begun two years ago.

It was also announced that Frederick T. Gates, who has been Mr. Rockefeller's adviser in benefactions for many years, had resigned from the chairmanship of the board. He is to be succeeded by Dr. Wallace Buttrick, who has been secretary. Mr. Buttrick's place is taken by Dr. Abraham Flexner.

#### THE RAMSAY MEMORIAL FUND

As was noted in *SCIENCE* at the time a public meeting was held last October at University College, London, to consider the best means of establishing a memorial to the late Sir William Ramsay. We learn from *Nature* that since then the organization of the appeal has been set up and is now complete. Mr. H. H. Asquith has consented to act as president of the fund, whilst the vice-presidents include the ambassadors and ministers of allied and neutral powers, Mr. Lloyd George, the president of the Board of Education, the president of the Royal Society and the chancellors of the universities of Cambridge, Glasgow and London. The general committee, consisting of the subscribers, is under the chairmanship of Lord Rayleigh. Lord Glenconner and Professor J. N. Collie share the office of honorary treasurer, and Dr. Smiles is acting as honorary secretary.

An executive committee, formed under the chairmanship of Sir Hugh Bell, has drawn up an appeal, which is at present only privately issued, but will shortly be circulated publicly. The committee aims at obtaining a sum of £100,000, and whilst the final form to be taken by the memorial will be submitted to the subscribers, and will necessarily depend on the

amount obtained, the objects recommended are: (1) The provision of Ramsay Research Fellowships, tenable wherever the necessary equipment may be found; and (2) the establishment of a Ramsay Memorial Laboratory of Engineering Chemistry in connection with University College, London, where Sir William Ramsay's most important discoveries were made during his twenty-six years' tenure of the chair of chemistry. The committee has also in mind the inclusion of other forms of memorial, such as the institution of a Ramsay Medal for Chemical Research.

The sum already obtained by the private efforts of Sir William Ramsay's friends and from their own generosity amounts to about £13,500. This includes the donation of £5,000 from Messrs. Brunner, Mond, Ltd.; £1,000 each from the Rt. Hon. Lord Glenconner, Sir Hugh Bell, Sir Ralph C. Forster, Sir Robert Hadfield, Mr. Robert Mond and Mr. Hugh Brunel Noble; and £500 each from the president of the British Science Guild and Miss Lilius Noble.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE New York Academy of Sciences has been compelled to postpone the celebration which had been planned, but on the evening of May 28 the following program was given in honor of the one hundred years of scientific activity of the academy:

The relation of pure science to the national crisis: Professor Michael Idvorsky Pupin, president of the academy.

The academy's scientific survey of Porto Rico: Dr. Nathaniel Lord Britton.

Our first hundred years—a summary: Dr. John Hendley Barnhart.

PROFESSOR T. H. MORGAN, of Columbia University, has been elected a foreign member of the Linnean Society, London.

DR. ISAIAH BOWMAN, director of the American Geographical Society, was in April awarded the Bonaparte-Wyse gold medal of the Geographical Society of Paris for his explorations in and publications on South America.