

1. The microscopical inspection of food, clothing and supplies.

2. Studies of the coat coverings of animals with a view to the utilization of nature's principles in making the clothing of soldiers light, warm, well ventilated, impervious to water and protectively colored.

3. Studies of the mechanism of aquatic and aerial locomotion in animals with reference to its application to submarines and aeroplanes.

4. Utilization of gulls and other aquatic birds in locating submarines.

5. Studies of the mechanisms of limbs and joints with a view to offering suggestions in the construction of artificial limbs.

6. Investigations in tissue cultures, grafting and regeneration, with a view to their surgical applications.

The committee would welcome any further suggestions either in the line of additional problems or of practical methods of attacking those named.

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## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### SUSPENSION OF THE KEW BULLETIN

PUBLICATION of the *Kew Bulletin* has been suspended on the ground of shortage of paper. In regard to this *Nature* remarks:

When we see the waste of paper used in Parliamentary Reports, National Service propaganda, and by government departments generally, and

place this by the side of the amount required for the continued publication of such a periodical as the *Kew Bulletin*—imperial in its scope and influence—we begin to despair that our state officials will ever possess true standards of value in matters pertaining to science. The subject is dealt with in an article on another page; and all we wish to say here is that we are glad to accord the hospitality of our columns to a contribution intended for the *Kew Bulletin*, and that we earnestly hope action will be taken to secure the continuance of a publication which is more essential now than ever it was.

The article mentioned says:

It must be remembered that Kew is the central institution of a great system of smaller institutes established in every region of the empire, and that these institutes exist to further the material prosperity of the countries in which they are situated. The principal sources of wealth in most of our foreign possessions consist for the most part of vegetable products, and it is difficult to overrate the importance of keeping the botanical stations, remote as they mostly are from the main channels of current scientific work, continually informed on relevant matters which from time to time reach the great clearing-house at Kew. It must be evident to everyone that any action which tends to lower the efficiency of these institutes of economic botany must operate in a manner detrimental to the material interests of the country or countries thus affected. It is difficult to believe that either the India Office or the Colonial Office, which are both concerned with the functions that only Kew is in a position effectively to discharge, can have been consulted in the matter, or, if they had been so consulted, that they could have approved of a step so unsound alike on economic and financial grounds.

Furthermore, it should not be forgotten that Kew receives a good deal from other countries by way of exchange for the *Bulletin*, which it is now proposed to suspend. We understand that enemy countries, although their colonial interests are as nothing compared with our own, have, nevertheless, not seen fit to interfere with the continued publication of their own corresponding journals.

In fact, the same official lack of appreciation of the importance of scientific inquiry and research which was a matter of common knowledge amongst our competitors before the war still continues to sap the foundations of our recognized claims to our foreign possessions, which should largely rest

on the encouragement of their material development on sound economic, and therefore on scientific, lines.

It is earnestly to be hoped that the action apparently taken may be reconsidered before we allow ourselves, as a colonial power, to be made ridiculous, and as a business people to stand committed to the policy of penny wise and pound foolish.

Unless we learn in time the lessons which this war is enforcing on every side, namely, that the way of prosperity in the future lies in promoting scientific knowledge and in utilizing the results of scientific investigation, it will make but little difference in the long run whether we win the war or not. For we should assuredly lose in the far more serious conflict that is certain to follow it, a conflict in which the claim for superiority will be inexorably decided against any nation which refuses to take full advantage of that knowledge which is power in a sense far more real than ever before.

#### DAYLIGHT SAVING

RESOLUTIONS in reference to daylight saving were, on May 23, adopted by the American Philosophical Society as follows:

*Resolved*, That The American Philosophical Society, convened in special meeting for this purpose, memorialize the Congress of the United States urging the early enactment of the identical bills, House No. 2609 and Senate No. 1854, entitled respectively "A bill to save daylight and to provide standard time for the United States."

*Resolved*, That the members of the American Philosophical Society urge their respective senators and representatives to take early and affirmative action on these bills, and that the society address the President, asking his approval of them.

*Resolved*, That the members of the American Philosophical Society urge their respective state legislatures to pass resolutions favoring these bills, as the Pennsylvania Legislature has recently done, and that they further urge commercial, financial, agricultural and engineering societies in their respective localities to memorialize Congress for the early enactment of these bills.

Mr. Arthur H. Lea, in moving the adoption of the above resolutions, said in part:

In his *Autobiography*, Benjamin Franklin wrote: "In walking through the Strand and Fleet Street one morning at seven o'clock I observed there was not one shop open, though it had been daylight and the sun up above three hours; the inhabitants

of London chusing voluntarily to live much by candle light, and sleep by sunlight, and yet often complain, a little absurdly, of the duty on candles and the high price of tallow." (Bigelow edition, Philadelphia, 1868, pp. 291-92.)

The founder of this society was the first to present the idea of Daylight Saving, but his suggestion has been neglected for one hundred and fifty years. Men can not and will not individually alter their habits of rising and going to bed, but collectively they can do so with no inconvenience. Traveling eastward or westward we alter our watches one hour at certain places and immediately forget the change and adapt ourselves to the new time. By federal legislation we can do the same and as easily throughout the entire country.

The bills aforesaid would legally establish the standard time zones adopted by the railroads in 1883, which innovation was then recognized as an immense convenience. They would also cover any legal questions by providing that standard time is to govern common carriers, government officers and persons subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, in their acts and legal relations, rights and contracts. Furthermore, after establishing standard time, these bills provide for advancing it in five zones, respectively, by one hour at 2 A.M. on the last Sunday in April of each year, and for retarding it by one hour at 2 A.M. on the last Sunday in September. The only amendment necessary, now that April, 1917, is past, is to provide that for this year the advancement shall take effect at the earliest date, to be specified, after approval of the Act of Congress.

All the belligerent European nations, except Russia, have adopted Daylight Saving as a war measure for efficiency and economy, and adjacent neutral nations, such as Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Holland, have done likewise. These European nations now follow time standards 6 and 7 hours ahead of ours, and therefore their business day is practically over before ours begins. Stock exchanges in London and Paris now close one hour before our Exchanges open, and the Continental European stock exchanges close two hours before our opening. Stock exchange transactions within the same day would be facilitated by our advancing our time, and the same would be true of ordinary commercial and financial transactions across the ocean.