SCIENCE

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MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

THE VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGIST AND NATIONAL EFFICIENCY

THE American government having been forced into the war, it is the privilege of American scientific institutions and of the army of American scientific men to adapt themselves at once to the new conditions, and to hold themselves in readiness to serve wherever their contribution is most needed.

At no time in the world's history has the necessity of thoroughgoing scientific preparation been emphasized as it is at present. For some time it has been clear that the war is a war of physics and chemistry. The pressing agricultural and medical problems of to-day make it sharply apparent that the war is no less a war of biology. Other things being equal, those national groups win which are best prepared scientifically.

A moment's consideration of certain problems, chiefly agricultural, which the war has thrown into strong relief serves to demonstrate the essentiality of knowledge of the complicated relations between man and his environment. By furnishing aggressive and intelligent leadership in this province the vertebrate zoologist can make a contribution of supreme and immediate importance to the national efficiency.

We may now proceed to discuss five propositions which stand out predominantly in this connection.

First, the possibility of the development of new resources in food or clothing is indubitable; there is no great hope for the successful elaboration of plans looking to this end, however, without intimate knowledge of the wild stock which it is proposed to domesticate or otherwise develop.