

Pribilof Islands. In the calendar year 1917 the government shipped from the Pribilof Islands fur-seal skins valued at \$274,291 and fox skins valued at \$35,680.

BOTANICAL ABSTRACTS

A MEETING of editors of botanical publications was held at Pittsburgh, on December 28, 1917, to consider the desirability of undertaking the publication of an abstracting journal for botany. After a long discussion the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, that we, as a group of botanists interested, invite each botanical society to appoint a committee of two to meet with committees of other societies and with the members of this group to formulate a program for a journal of botanical abstracts, botany to be interpreted in its broadest sense. In case action of any society is delayed, the President and Secretary of such society are invited to represent it. A meeting is called for 10 A.M., December 30, at Parlor 140, Fort Pitt Hotel.

At this augmented meeting of December 30, after informal discussion it was voted that the 26 botanists present proceed to formal organization under the name "Temporary Board of Control of Botanical Abstracts." Donald Reddick was elected chairman and Forrest Shreve secretary. On motion it was voted that the board provide for its perpetuation in the following way:

1. That the following botanical organizations be asked to elect two members each:

American Association for the Advancement of Science,
American Genetic Association,
American Microscopical Society,
American Phytopathological Society,
American Society of Agronomists,
American Society of Naturalists,
American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties,
Botanical Society of America, General Section,
Botanical Society of America, Physiological Section,
Botanical Society of America, Taxonomic Section,
Ecological Society of America,
Paleontological Society of America,
Society for Horticultural Science,
Society of American Bacteriologists,
Society of American Foresters.

2. That in the election of members to the Board of Control of Botanical Abstracts each society be asked to name one man for a short term of two years and one man for a long term of four years, and that a member be elected biennially thereafter or as required.

On motion the Temporary Board of Control elected by ballot an Executive Committee of Ten on Organization, to act for one year with power to make arrangements for editorial management and publication. This committee is constituted as follows: J. H. Barnhart, Henry C. Cowles, B. M. Duggar, C. Stuart Gager, R. A. Harper, Burton E. Livingston, F. C. Newcombe, Donald Reddick, C. L. Shear and Forrest Shreve.

The Executive Committee of the Temporary Board of Control selected B. E. Livingston for editor-in-chief and the following as associate editors in charge of the sections as indicated:

Agronomy and Soil Technology, ————,
Bacteriology, H. J. Conn,
Botanical Education, C. Stuart Gager,
Cytology, C. J. Chamberlain,
Ecology and Plant Geography, Henry C. Cowles,
Forestry, Raphael Zon,
Genetics, G. H. Shull,
History, Biography and Bibliography, J. H. Barnhart,
Horticulture, W. H. Chandler,
Morphology, E. W. Sinnott,
Paleobotany, E. W. Berry,
Pathology, Donald Reddick,
Pharmacognosy, Henry Kraemer,
Physiology, B. M. Duggar,
Taxonomy, J. M. Greenman and J. G. Schramm.

It is expected that the work of abstracting will begin at once, with the international literature of the year 1918 and that publication will follow promptly.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

In honor of Professor Emeritus John J. Stevenson, who held the chair of geology at New York University from 1871 to the time of his retirement from active service in 1909, the building to be occupied by the Faculty Club has been named Stevenson Hall. It was presented to the university at the commencement exercises on June 3.

DR. ABRAHAM JACOBI, the distinguished New York physician, who is still in active practise, received many congratulations on the celebration of his eighty-eighth birthday, which occurred recently.

THE honorary fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland has been conferred on Major Harvey Cushing, of the United States Medical Service, on leave of absence from Harvard University.

DR. JOEL E. GOLDTHWAIT, director of military orthopedics with the American Expeditionary Force in France, has been made a lieutenant-colonel.

MAJOR ROGER I. LEE, chief medical officer of the Harvard surgical unit which sailed a year ago, has been appointed commanding officer in place of Colonel Patterson.

DR. FRANK D. ADAMS, dean of the faculty of applied science and professor of geology, McGill University, has left for England and France to take up work in connection with the organization of the "Khaki University for Canadian Soldiers Overseas."

MR. H. FOSTER BAIN has been appointed assistant director of the U. S. Bureau of Mines and is in the office of the bureau at Washington.

DR. GEORGE V. N. DEARBORN has been commissioned a first lieutenant in the Medical Reserve Corps.

DR. R. B. TEACHOUT, instructor in psychology in the University of Oregon, has entered the psychological service of the national army and is now stationed at Camp Lewis, American Lake, Washington.

IN accordance with the recommendation of Professor Ruthven, director of the Museum of Zoology of the University of Michigan, Mr. Calvin Goodrich, editor of the *Detroit Journal*, has been appointed to the honorary position of associate curator of Mollusca.

WILLIAM P. STUDDERT has been appointed fishery expert on the steamer *Albatross*.

DR. ROBERT G. CASWELL has resigned as assistant professor of chemistry at Colby College, to accept a position as one of the re-

search chemists for the E. I. du Pont de Nemours Company of Wilmington, Del.

DR. C. H. SHATTUCK, professor of forestry at the University of California in charge of range management, has accepted a position for the summer as technical adviser to the field parties now engaged in classifying the public domain lands of the west, which are now open for settlement under the 640-acre Homestead Act. Four parties are at present being organized in Montana, who will report on the grazing value of large bodies of this land.

S. F. HILDEBRAND, director of the Beaufort Biological Laboratory of the Bureau of Fisheries, is engaged in cooperation with Dr. C. W. Stiles, of the Public Health Service, in the campaign for the control of mosquitoes in the environs of Camp Hancock, near Augusta, Ga.

PROFESSOR HAROLD HEATH, of Stanford University, who has made a number of visits to the seal islands as an assistant of the Bureau of Fisheries, has been engaged to go there this year for the purpose of making special investigations, assisting in the annual census, and advising the agents regarding various matters connected with the animal life on the islands.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association states that Dr. Charles W. Young, dean of the Union Medical College, Peking, China, has gone to Shansi, taking with him Dr. Chang of the staff of the college, who has had experience in work with the plague in Tientsin. His mission is educational, and he hopes to persuade the governor of the province to stop traffic on the Hwang-Ho River which flows through Saratsi where pneumonic plague is very prevalent. In one town north of the Great Wall, it is said that 1,000 persons died from the disease in five days.

AT a meeting of the Iron and Steel Institute on May 3 awards of £100 from the Carnegie Research Fund were made to Mr. George Patchin, of London, an associate of the Royal School of Mines, and formerly head of the metallurgical department of Birkbeck College, to enable him to pursue research on "Semi-

steel and its heat treatment"; to Mr. J. N. Kilby, of Sheffield, for research work on "The basic open-hearth process of steel making in all its branches"; to Mr. Samuel L. Hoyt, U. S. A., to enable him to study "The foreign inclusions in steel, their occurrence and identification"; and to Professor J. A. Van den Broek, of the University of Michigan, for research work on "The elastic properties of steel and alloys."

THE University of Michigan chapter of Sigma Xi, on May 28, initiated thirty new members, all of whom had been actively engaged in research. Professor A. F. Shull delivered the annual address, on the subject "Heredity and the fate of the warring nations."

DR. SIDNEY D. TOWNLEY, professor of applied mathematics at Leland Stanford University, gave a lecture before the science club of the University of Oregon on May 13, on the subject "The recent earthquake at San Jacinto, California."

DR. MARTIN H. FISCHER, Eichberg professor of physiology in the University of Cincinnati, delivered the second Sigma Xi lecture of the 1917-18 series at the University of Missouri on May 15. His subject was "The general physiology of water absorption in the living organism." The lecture was open to the public. Dr. Fischer also lectured to the Medical Society of the University of Missouri on May 16, on "Principles of treatment in nephritis." On the evening of the same day he addressed the Missouri Chapter of Sigma Xi in connection with the annual initiation on "Emulsion chemistry and some of its applications."

It is announced that arrangements have been made for a series of special lectures at Cambridge University for the summer meeting, beginning August 1, when the main subject will be the United States of America. Among the lecturers are Professors George H. Nettleton, Henry S. Canby and Henry A. Bumstead, of Yale; Professor J. W. Cunliffe, of Columbia; Professor Santayana, formerly of Harvard, and Sir William Osler, formerly of Johns Hopkins and now of Oxford.

A NATIONAL union of scientific workers is being formed in Great Britain. Norman Campbell, the secretary, writes to *Nature*: "There is a general agreement that it is imperative for the best interests of science that those who pursue it should possess greater political and industrial influence. The founders of our union believe that they can attain that influence only by adopting the form of organization which has proved effective in experience. That organization involves the formation of a union including, so far as possible, every professional scientific worker, and governed in a completely 'democratic' fashion. It is such a union that we are trying to form."

WE have been requested to state that the book "A Year of Costa Rican Natural History," by A. S. and P. P. Calvert, reviewed in *SCIENCE* for March 1, 1918, was published by the Macmillan Company, New York, 1917.

KNUD RASMUSSEN, the Danish explorer, according to an Exchange Telegraph despatch from Copenhagen, has reached Long's Firth with his Arctic expedition and has charted all the Firths of northern Greenland. Important scientific results, the explorer says, have been attained. Rasmussen and his second Thule expedition left Denmark in April, 1916. Reuter's Copenhagen correspondent transmits a telegram from Rasmussen in which the explorer says his advance was attended with the greatest difficulties. Two companions, Hendrik Olsen and Dr. Wulff, perished. After Olsen's death, says the explorer, "we started on our homeward journey and reached land on August 24, at Cape Agassiz in a bad plight, without provisions, having eaten all the dogs." The explorer says he and his companion walked to Etah, whence they despatched sledges with provisions for the rest of the party, but that the relief arrived too late to save Dr. Wulff.

A MEDICAL school for French Africa has been founded at Dakar. This school will be under the authority of the director of the Service de Santé, inspector general of the sanitary and medical services of French West Africa, and will have for its mission the training of native physicians and midwives. The

construction and organization of this school shall be, according to the decree, undertaken at once by the governor general so that the necessary funds will be forthcoming as provided for by this law.

At the seventeenth annual meeting of the North Carolina Academy of Science, held at Greensboro on April 26 and 27, Dr. E. W. Gudger, after ten years' service as secretary-treasurer, was made president for the next year. The other officers elect are: *vice-president*, Professor H. B. Arbuckle, Davidson College; *secretary-treasurer*, Mr. Bert Cunningham, Trinity College; additional members *executive committee*; Rev. George W. Lay, St. Mary's School; Professor Gertrude W. Mendenhall, State Normal College and Professor J. J. Wolfe, Trinity College.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE Rockefeller Foundation has made the following appropriations: Howard College, Birmingham, Ala., \$100,000; Wake Forest College, Wake Forest, N. C., \$100,000, and Meredith College, Raleigh, N. C., \$75,000. The board granted \$195,000 for state agents for negro rural schools and for the annual maintenance of negro schools in the south. It also appropriated \$14,000 for farm demonstration work in Maine and New Hampshire.

At the University of Kentucky Dr. C. A. Shull, of the University of Kansas, has been appointed head of the department of botany; Dr. C. B. Cornell, of the University of Nebraska, assistant professor of education, and W. D. Funkhauser (Ph.D., Cornell) head of the department of zoology.

At the University of Chicago, the following promotions have been made: To a professorship, Preston Keyes, anatomy; to associate professorships: Herman I. Schlesinger and Jean Piccard, chemistry; to assistant professorships: Gerald L. Wendt, chemistry; Charles C. Colby, geography, and Morris M. Wells, zoology; to instructorships: Merle C. Coulter, botany; Carl Richard Moore, zoology.

At the University of Michigan Associate Professor Arthur J. Decker has been promoted to be professor of sanitary engineering. Walter C. Drury has been made instructor in sanitary engineering.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE ON THE ANTIQUITY OF MAN IN AMERICA

It is not from choice that the writer again ventures to take part in the controversy regarding the antiquity of man in America, but the reported discovery of remains of man associated with those of fossil animals of Pleistocene age at Vero, Florida, has reopened the question of antiquity and presents such possibilities of erroneous interpretation that I feel impelled to offer a word of caution.

The American aborigines as known to us have occupied every available part of the continent from the Arctic to the Antarctic throughout the long but illy defined period known as the Recent, and their osseous remains and the relics of their handicraft have become associated with unconsolidated superficial deposits by burial, and by the changes, often very profound, which take place everywhere through the action of wind, water and gravity and especially along stream courses; and in the passage of the centuries and millenniums it is patent that the relations of human remains and relics of all classes have been subject not only to minor but often radical changes in their relation to one another and to the original formations and surface of the occupied areas.

The full significance of these conditions is seldom realized or but imperfectly recognized by those who seek the early traces of man's presence and who venture to reckon the period of his arrival. The stream, for example, that meandered a valley or plain thousands of years ago may ere this have rearranged the materials of large areas along its course. Its channel may have worn its way back and forth over miles of territory, yet the formations thus effected may be so reset, though largely at reduced levels, as to obliterate traces of disturbance. Changes in the chronologic rela-