

in the development of geographical science; and geography profited thereby.

W. M. DAVIS

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ARMAND THEVENIN

THE French paleontologist, Armand Thevenin, who lost his life on March 7, at the age of forty-eight years, as a result of experimenting with poisonous gases in connection with the war, will be remembered chiefly for his beautiful memoir on the early vertebrates of France. He was particularly interested during several years in the Coal Measures Amphibia of France and in 1906 under the title "Amphibiens et Reptile du Terrain Houiller de France" he published in the *Annales de Paléontologie* his initial memoir on this subject. In this memoir Thevenin showed a wide acquaintance with the subject of fossil Amphibia and was especially fortunate in the discovery of an interesting and primitive reptile which he described under the name of *Sauravus costei*. This form, as the most ancient reptile of France, is paralleled in America by the form *Eosauravus copei* described by Williston from the Coal Measures of Linton, Ohio.

Four years later appeared Thevenin's monographic contribution to vertebrate paleontology, published with the title "Les plus anciens Quadrupèdes de France" in Tome V. of the *Annales de Paléontologie*. This beautifully illustrated and carefully written memoir was awarded a prize by the Academy of Sciences and will now stand for all time as an indication of the ability and ideals of Armand Thevenin. Had his life been spared he doubtless would have given us other memoirs of a like nature, for shortly before the war he was interested in the study of the vertebrate paleontology of Madagascar, of which several studies had appeared in the pages of the *Annales de Paléontologie*. Thevenin summarized the results of his studies on the most ancient vertebrates of France by noting, for both amphibians and reptiles, the diversity of form and structure exhibited by the species which

he had studied, suggesting that the vertebrates of the Coal Measures, though very ancient, were still a long way from their origin. A similar conclusion has been reached by students of early vertebrates in America.

Thevenin was fortunate in his association in the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle with paleontologists of international fame, such as Albert Gaudry and Marcellin Boule and he profited by his association in producing under the stimulus of their influence his interesting studies on fossil vertebrates. His list of papers is not extensive, probably not over a dozen all told, but his work was carefully and well done and he will stand as a worthy worker in the development of vertebrate paleontology. Students of paleontology in the future may gain much by studying carefully the neat and orderly presentation of facts and the beautiful illustrations of his "Les plus anciens Quadrupèdes de France" and thus be stimulated to produce better and more carefully wrought pieces of thoughtful endeavor.

ROY L. MOODIE

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE,
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE KATMAI EXPEDITION OF THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

WORD has just been received of the safe arrival in the field of this year's National Geographic Society expedition to the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes. On account of the war and particularly because of the difficulty of securing transportation for a larger party it was deemed advisable to send only two men into the field this year, the director, Dr. Robert F. Griggs, and other members of the expedition remaining behind to work up the unpublished results of the expedition of 1917. The field party consists of Jasper Sayre and Paul R. Hagelbarger, both members of last year's expedition. Their mission is to carry forward reconnaissances into country not reached by previous expeditions and to lay the foundation for more intensive scientific study of the volcanic phenomena manifested in the Valley of

Ten Thousand Smokes, which it is expected to continue after the war.

The party this year entered the region from the Bering Sea side of the Alaska peninsula rather than from the Pacific as heretofore. The ship that carried them, the *Dora*, was one of those caught by the unusually bad ice conditions this spring in Bering Sea and for two days was seriously hampered by the ice floes, which made navigation precarious, but, although warned by the coast guard cutter to turn back, she finally made her way through the ice without mishap. When last heard from on June 10, the expedition was camped at the foot of Naknek Lake prepared to plunge into the wilderness.

THE BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN

ON June 13 the treasurer of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences received from two anonymous donors a gift of securities of the par value of ten thousand dollars, as an addition to the permanent endowment of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and to be known as the Benjamin Stuart Gager Memorial Fund. At the request of the donors, the income from this fund is to be expended for publications for the library or otherwise as the present director of the garden may designate.

The chairman of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden Governing Committee, Mr. Alfred T. White, has made provision for several prizes for 1918 and annually thereafter. The most important of these prizes is a scholarship of the value of \$100 to be awarded to the boy or girl who has taken class work at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden for not less than three years, and who has shown marked ability along botanical and agricultural lines, both at the Garden and in his high-school courses, as attested by his principal and teachers. This will be known as the Alfred T. White Scholarship, and will be awarded for the first time in 1920. Further information may be obtained by addressing the director of the Garden.

Details as to this and some of the other prizes are published in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden *Leaflet* of June 20, 1918. Special men-

tion, however, should here be made of the offer of two first and two second prizes (one for boys and the other for girls) of War Savings Stamps to the value of \$15 and \$10, respectively, for excellence in back-yard gardens; and of two other prizes (one for boys and one for girls) of \$10 each, in War Savings Stamps, for making the best use of a plot of ground in the children's gardens at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

In addition to the above, twenty prizes of ten Thrift Stamps each (ten to boys and ten to girls) will be awarded to those who are most generally helpful in connection with the children's garden at the Botanic Garden. Promptness, regularity of attendance, effort, accomplishment and other points will form the basis of this award. The War Savings Stamps and Thrift Stamps will be awarded only for the period of the present war.

THE CHEMICAL WARFARE SERVICE

THE following statement is authorized by the Secretary of War:

The organization of the Chemical Warfare Service has been completed. Henceforth all phases of gas warfare will be under the control of the Chemical Warfare Service commanded by Major-General William L. Sibert.

Heretofore chemical warfare has been carried on by divisions in the Medical Department, the Ordnance Department, and the Bureau of Mines. All officers and men who have been connected with offensive or defensive gas warfare here will be responsible to the Chemical Warfare Service. The field training section at present in under the Corps of Engineers.

Defensive warfare has been under the control of the Medical Department. This work has consisted of the designing and manufacture of masks both for men and animals and the procurement of appliances for clearing trenches and dugouts of gas.

Offensive gas warfare consists principally of manufacturing gases and filling gas shells. The work has been under the direction of the Ordnance Department.

The new department will take over the work