

The opening of the Panama Canal, with the establishment of new world trade routes, brought the danger of a wide distribution of yellow fever. Its appearance in Asia, for example, would be a catastrophe.

To obtain authoritative information and counsel, the board appointed a yellow fever commission, headed by General Gorgas. Associated with him were Dr. Henry R. Carter, of the United States Public Health Service; Dr. Juan Guiteras, chief health officer of Havana; Major T. C. Lyster and Major E. R. Whitmore, of the Medical Department, United States Army, and Mr. W. D. Wrightson.

To define the problem accurately, the commission, in the spring and summer of 1916, visited all countries in South America in which yellow fever had appeared in recent years. On its return it presented a report, expressing the opinion, in which all members of the commission concurred, that the total eradication of yellow fever was feasible.

In January, 1917, the board adopted a working program and appointed Dr. Gorgas director. The Secretary of War had agreed to release the surgeon general for this service, but the war compelled a postponement of the work which is now to be resumed.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

RAYMOND DODGE, professor of psychology in Wesleyan University, has been made lieutenant commander in the United States Navy, in recognition of the special psychological tests devised by him for the use of the Navy during the war.

DR. CHARLES S. VENABLE is a captain in the Development Division of the Chemical Warfare Service doing gas offense work in Cleveland.

PROFESSOR E. C. FRANKLIN, of Stanford University, is on leave of absence and is engaged in research work near Washington for the Nitrate Division, Ordnance Department of the Army.

EIGHT American engineers have sailed for France to attend the French Engineering Congress in Paris to study reconstruction in France and restoration of French industries. An invitation to send representatives to the meeting was received by the American Society

of Civil Engineers from the French Society of Civil Engineers, and the American organization invited representation from the national societies of civil, mechanical, electric and mining engineers. The members of the delegation are: George F. Swain, Nelson P. Lewis, George W. Fuller, A. M. Hunt, George W. Tillson, Major James F. Case, L. B. Stillwell and E. Gibbon Spilsbury.

DR. ASTLEY P. C. ASHHURST, of Philadelphia, who went to France as a major in command of Base Hospital No. 34, unit of the Episcopal Hospital, has been promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel and placed in charge of all the hospitals in the Mantes Sector. His place as director of Base Hospital No. 34 has been taken by Dr. Emory G. Alexander.

MAJOR J. C. FITZGERALD, director of Connaught and Antitoxin Laboratories, University of Toronto, is at present with the Royal Army Medical Corps, as officer-commanding, No. 39 Mobile Laboratory, France, and acting also as adviser in pathology.

DR. I. M. LEWIS, formerly chairman of the school of botany in the University of Texas, is now a captain in the Sanitary Corps, stationed at Yale University. He is in charge of the preliminary course given to officers in training at Yale University.

LIEUTENANT ALVIN R. LAMB, of the Division of Food and Nutrition, Medical Department, U. S. Army, is now stationed at Camp Greenleaf, Ga. He is on leave of absence from the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station.

LIEUTENANT RALPH BENTON, Inf., U. S. A., formerly associate professor of zoology in the University of Southern California and more recently of the United States Bureau of Biological Survey, has been assigned as personnel adjutant at the College of the Pacific, San Jose, Calif.

THE following men, formerly members of the scientific staff of the Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, are now engaged in rat-control work in connection with the Sanitary Corps of the American Army in France: Major Edward A. Goldman, in charge, assisted by Lieutenants Francis Har-

per, Joe G. Crick and Joseph Keyes, and Sergeant Remington Kellog.

DR. KENYON L. BUTTERFIELD, president of Massachusetts College and member of the Army Educational Commission for Vocational Training, has sailed for France to begin work in the overseas schools which are to be open to soldiers until they return home.

DEAN HAYWARD, of the Agricultural Department of Delaware College, has been given a leave of absence for a year to serve as a regional director of agricultural education in France, under the Y. M. C. A. army overseas educational commission.

PROFESSOR HARRY FIELDING REID, of the Johns Hopkins University, and Professor Stephen Faber, of the University of South Carolina, have gone to Porto Rico, at the request of the Secretary of War, to study the severe earthquakes which did serious damage in that island in October.

DR. EDGAR W. OLIVE, curator at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, spent several weeks during the past summer for the Plant Disease Survey and Cereal Disease Office of the United States Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the departments of plant pathology of the New York State Agricultural College, Cornell University, and the Virginia Polytechnic Institute. The work included a fruit disease survey of the counties in the Hudson River valley; a study of onion smut conditions in the Wallkill valley, Orange county, N. Y.; an oat and barley smut trip through the Hudson River valley counties, and a study of a new wheat disease in western Virginia. This work was continued during October, Dr. Olive being in Pennsylvania from the first to the fifth of the month, making a survey and study of a new and descriptive potato wart disease.

DR. ORLANDO E. WHITE, curator of plant breeding at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, was granted a leave of absence of three and a half months, beginning on August 1, 1918, for the purpose of cooperating with the federal government in the study of various problems connected with the growth and utilization of the

castor oil bean, with special reference to the production of castor oil. Plantations were visited in Tennessee, Arkansas, Georgia, Florida and Texas.

MR. G. W. GRAY, of the Midland Refining Company, El Dorado, Kansas, has been appointed a director of the Bureau of Refining, Oil Division, U. S. Fuel Administration.

PROFESSOR E. K. SOPER, of the Oregon State School of Mines, has returned to Corvallis, Oregon, after three months of geological work in the Atlantic Coast and Great Lakes States.

DR. W. W. BONNS has accepted a position as director of the botanical research department of Eli Lilly Co., pharmaceutical chemists, Indianapolis.

J. R. BAILEY, professor of organic chemistry in the University of Texas, who spent last year doing research work with the Hirsch Brothers in New York, has returned and resumed his duties at the university.

DR. C. STUART GAGER, director of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, delivered the commencement address at the School of Horticulture for Women, Ambler, Pennsylvania, on December 13, 1918. The subject of the address was "Horticulture as a profession."

At the recent opening at the South Baltimore General Hospital Dr. Llewellys F. Barker, of the Johns Hopkins University, and Dr. Jane E. Nash, superintendent of the Church Home and Infirmary, made the principal addresses.

THE anniversary address of the New York Academy of Medicine was delivered on December 5, by Edwin G. Conklin, professor of biology in Princeton University, on "The biology of democracy with especial reference to the present world crisis."

OVER £2,500 of the £12,000 required has been subscribed to the chair of medicine which is to be established in the University of Belgrade, as a memorial to D. Elsie Ingles.

DR. SIDNEY AUGUSTUS NORTON, emeritus professor of chemistry at Ohio State University since 1895, has died at his home in Columbus, aged eighty-four years. He was one of the five members of the original university

faculty appointed in 1873, of whom two—Dr. Tuttle, of Virginia, and Dr. Mendenhall, of Ravenna—now survive.

THE temporary officers of the American Association of Clinical Psychologists have deemed it advisable to hold the annual meeting scheduled for December, 1918. The temporary officers of the association are as follows: Chairman, J. E. Wallace Wallin; Secretary, Leta S. Hollingworth; Committee on Constitution, Leta S. Hollingworth, David Mitchell and Francis N. Maxfield; Committee on nomination of officers and new members, Rudolf Pinner, Helen Thompson Woolley and H. H. Goddard.

DURING the past summer, the Gail Borden collection of minerals, belonging to Occidental College, Los Angeles, which had been loaned to the mining exhibit at the San Diego Fair, has been rearranged and placed in a better position for study. This collection containing some of the finest mineral specimens on exhibition in southern California, became the property of the college some years ago and forms the nucleus around which its mineralogical collections are grouped. Additions to these by gift and purchase have been made from time to time so that to-day the collection has representative series of most of the economically valuable minerals, especially those of the west. The collection is open to the public and facilities for study of the specimens will be extended to visiting mineralogists.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

A STEP of much importance to Utah was taken by the Board of Trustees of the Utah Agricultural College on December 2, when they formally established an Agricultural Engineering Experiment Station as an integral part of that institution. Under the plan of organization there will be five experimental divisions of the new station under the following personnel:

Irrigation and Drainage: Dr. F. S. Harris and Professor O. W. Israelsen.

Roads: Professor Wm. Peterson and Ray B. West.

Farm Machinery and Transportation: Professor L. R. Humphreys.

Manufacture of Agricultural Products: Dr. M. C. Merrill and Professor J. C. Thomas.

Rural Architecture and Buildings: Professor R. B. West.

THE governing board of the Sheffield Scientific School, Yale University, has decided, without a dissenting vote, to recommend the establishment of a four-year course in place of the present three-year course.

DEAN E. A. BIRGE, professor of zoology, will continue to act as president of the University of Wisconsin until a successor is elected to the late President C. R. Van Hise.

DR. HORACE D. ARNOLD has been appointed director of the Harvard Graduate School of Medicine; Alexander S. Begg, dean, and Charles L. Scudder, acting dean. The other members of the administrative board chosen are: Drs. David L. Edsall, George G. Sears, Algernon Coolidge, Ernest E. Tyzzer and Francis W. Peabody.

PROFESSOR C. A. WRIGHT, of the Iowa State College, has been appointed professor of electrical engineering, in the College of Engineering at Ohio State University.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

A LEAGUE OF NATIONS

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Allow me to call the attention of your readers to the statement below, regarding a League of Nations.

Until a month ago the best that we could do was to "win the war." Now that the war is won, let us remember that it has been won for peace; and let us therefore do our utmost to prevent the recurrence of anything so utterly wasteful, so inane, unscientific as warfare as a means of settling international disputes. Is it not indeed unthinkable that we should again attempt to settle differences by a method, in which the demonstration of rightfulness consists so largely in discovering which nation or group of nations can kill or starve the greatest number of its opponents, and in which the