

number of special committees, including those on the incidence of phthisis in relation to occupation; on surgical shock and allied conditions of which Professor Bayliss has become chairman; on the standardization of pathological methods, of which Professor Adami, F.R.S., is chairman; on salvarsan; on chemical warfare medical investigations; on anaërobic bacteria and infections, of which Professor Bulloch is chairman; on accessory food factors ("vitamines"), of which Professor Hopkins is chairman; on air medical investigations, of which Dr. Head is chairman; and on dysentery, of which Sir William Leishman is chairman. There is also an industrial fatigue research board, appointed last June by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research jointly with the Medical Research Committee, to consider and investigate the relations of the hours of labor and of other conditions of employment, including methods of work, to the production of fatigue, having regard both to industrial efficiency and of the preservation of health, among the workers. Of this committee Professor Sherrington is chairman. In the introduction to the annual report reference is made to the cordial co-operation received from the Advisory Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, established in 1915. The field of research in every pure science, not less than that of inquiry in industrial science, lies so close at very many points to the fields of medical research, that no boundary line can be drawn. The committee looks forward to the progressive development in this cooperation with the department of scientific and industrial research, and finds new hope for the increasing effective organization of research work in all directions. "This," it is said, "should be an organization not imposed in any sense from above, but one derived from and inspired by the efforts of individual workers in the different fields of science, where the free university and other institutions of the country are pursuing together the common aims of the advancement of knowledge and the good of the state." In this connection it may be recalled that the Ministry of Health Bill provides that "the

duties heretofore performed by the Medical Research Committee shall, after the commencement of this act, be carried on by or under the direction of a committee of the Privy Council appointed by His Majesty for that purpose." This would place the Medical Research Committee in a position analogous to that of the Advisory Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

#### RESOLUTIONS IN HONOR OF DIRECTOR FREDERICK J. V. SKIFF

ON the sixteenth of December Dr. Frederick J. V. Skiff, director of the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, was presented with engrossed resolutions by eighty-six of those affiliated with him in the museum, the occasion for this presentation being the twenty-fifth anniversary of the appointment of Dr. Skiff as director of the Field Museum. Dr. Skiff was the recipient of many congratulatory letters and telegrams. The resolutions are as follows:

On this, the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of your appointment as director of this museum, we who are affiliated with you in the work of the museum unanimously extend to you our hearty congratulations upon your successful completion of so notable a term of service, and wish to express to you as well, our deep appreciation of the cordial relations which you have maintained with us during this period.

The task to which you were called twenty-five years ago presented, as we realize, peculiar difficulties. The plan and purpose of the museum were to some extent uncharted and the execution of even such plans as had been made called for the exercise of unusual administrative ability. The opportunity at hand at this time for creating a museum of world-wide scope and importance was known to be great, but the manner in which this opportunity should be improved, so far as administrative details were concerned, rested with you. With what high idealism, fixity of purpose and wisdom of direction you performed this task, the institution which exists to-day eloquently testifies. Whatever great accomplishments of service and progress await the museum in the future, we feel sure that it will always owe its success to the broad foundations which it has been your privilege and at the same time your high honor to have laid. Only one of broad, well-balanced and highly cul-

tured mind could have conceived and carried on as you have done the symmetrical and rapid progress which has characterized the institution. That in addition to this great work you have been able also to render highly distinguished services to various international enterprises in the form of world expositions, is another indication of the wide range of your powers.

Your broad qualities of mind have been accompanied by a warmth of heart which has bound us to you in especial affection. Our felicitations on this occasion spring therefore from sentiments of deep personal regard. You have been to each of us a wise counselor and faithful friend, no less than trusted leader and able administrator.

It is our hope that you may be spared to direct the activities of this institution for many years and to enrich with your friendship and counsel the lives of each of us and of all others who shall be privileged to come within the circle of your companionship.

#### THE WORK OF DR. C. G. ABBOT

DR. CHARLES GREELEY ABBOT has been appointed assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. Dr. Abbot was born in Wilton, New Hampshire, May 31, 1872. He was graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, class of 1895, with the degree of Master of Science, and in 1914 he was awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science by the University of Melbourne.

Dr. Abbot was appointed assistant to Secretary Langley in the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory in 1895, and has been engaged continuously in original researches on solar radiation in cooperation with Dr. Langley up to 1906, when he assumed entire charge of that work as director. His studies covered the fundamental problems in connection with the amount and variability of solar radiation, its absorption in the solar and terrestrial gaseous envelopes, and the effects of its variability on climate.

In recognition of the character of his work, Dr. Abbot has received the Draper gold medal from the National Academy of Sciences, the Rumford gold medal from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and membership in the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the

Astronomical and Astrophysical Society of America, the Royal Astronomical Society of Great Britain, the Société Astronomique de France, the Society of Astronomy in Mexico, the Academy of Modena in Italy, the Deutsche Meteorologische Gesellschaft in Germany, and other organizations. The results of his work have been published largely in the *Annals* of the Astrophysical Observatory. He is also the author of a work entitled "The Sun," published in 1911, and has contributed many scientific papers to special astronomical and astrophysical journals.

#### THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

THE thirty-sixth annual meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union was held in New York City, November 11, 1918. Owing to the epidemic of influenza the public meetings for the presentation of papers were omitted and the sessions were limited to business meetings of the council and fellows and members. The election of officers resulted in the choice of the following officers for the ensuing year: *President*, John H. Sage, Portland, Conn.; *Vice-presidents*, Dr. Witmer Stone, Philadelphia, and Dr. George Bird Grinnell, New York; *Secretary*, Dr. T. S. Palmer, 1939 Biltmore St., Washington, D. C.; and *Treasurer*, Dr. Jonathan Dwight, New York. Five additions were made to the list of honorary fellows and 14 foreign ornithologists were enrolled as corresponding fellows. The honorary fellows elected were: Dr. Roberto Dabbene, of Buenos Aires; Dr. Alwyn K. Haagner, of Pretoria, Transvaal; Dr. Einar Lönnberg, of Stockholm, Sweden; Dr. Auguste Ménégaux, of Paris, and Dr. Peter Suschkin, of Kharkov, Russia. Five new members, Dr. Harold C. Bryant, George K. Cherrie, Lieutenant Ludlow Griscom, Lieutenant J. L. Peters and R. W. Williams, and 147 associates were added to the rolls.

Although the union has had seventy-five of its younger and more active members in military and naval service, it has survived the war without suffering any decrease in its membership, its income, or in the size of its journal.