

Sir Walter Fletcher, M.D., F.R.S. (secretary, Medical Research Committee), Mr. W. L. Hitchens (chairman of Messrs. Cammell, Laird and Co., Ltd.), Mr. Edward Hopkinson, D.Sc. (director of Messrs. Mather and Platt, Manchester), Mr. Kenneth Lee (director of Messrs. Tootal, Broadhurst Lee Co., Ltd.), Dr. T. M. Legge, C.B.E. (H.M. Medical Inspector of Factories), Colonel C. S. Myers, M.D., F.R.S. (director of the Psychological Laboratory, Cambridge), Mr. R. R. Bannatyne (assessor representing the home office). The secretary is Mr. D. R. Wilson, H.M. Inspector of Factories to whom at 15, Great George Street, Westminster, S.W.1, suggestions as to any problems needing investigation should be addressed.

STATE PARKS FOR IOWA

At the last General Assembly of the State of Iowa, a law was passed creating a State Board of Conservation for the purpose of setting aside certain areas in the state for recreation, scientific, historic and forestry purposes. The sum of \$50,000 out of the fund coming from hunters' licenses to be set aside for the purchase of such places. The Conservation Board is to report its findings to the Executive Council of the state. Governor W. L. Harding appointed as such a board, L. H. Pammel, of Ames; Joseph Kelso, of Bellevue, and John Ford, of Fort Dodge. Mr. E. R. Harlan, curator of the State Historical Department, is designated in the law as a member of the board. The board recommended the purchase of a region known as the Devil's Back Bone in Delaware County along the Maquoketa River. The area embraces something over 1,200 acres. Some of the original white pines are still standing, as well as a number of the larger oaks and cedars. The wild animal life also is of interest. It is of interest to geologists because of the rough topography, the limestone and the glacial action in the region. This region is also of particular interest from an ecological standpoint.

The board designated that this park and similar parks be known as memorial state parks. The Executive Council adopted the recommendation of the board with reference to

the purchase of the Devil's Back Bone and made arrangements to purchase the area. The commission also made recommendation for southeastern and southwestern Iowa, particularly with reference to wooded tracts and some Indian mounds, as well as the Missouri loess area in southwestern Iowa. The board believes history and science will best be served by making few improvements in these parks.

THE PLANS OF THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

EXTENSIVE work in public health and medical education and the completion of its war work will be the program of the Rockefeller Foundation for 1919, according to a statement issued by the president, Dr. George E. Vincent.

The estimated income for 1919 is \$6,750,000. Against this the budget provides \$2,264,130 for public health and \$3,662,504 for medical education. The other items of the budget are \$103,000 for miscellaneous payments on long-term appropriations and \$146,662 for administration. The amount still available for appropriations is \$465,110. Of the income of 1918 \$2,787,406 has been brought forward to meet appropriations for war work made in 1918, but yet to be paid.

The public health activities for the year will be directed chiefly against yellow fever, tuberculosis in France, malaria and the hookworm disease. The Yellow Fever Commission, headed by General William C. Gorgas, in starting a war on the disease which it is hoped will result in its complete elimination. The Commission on Tuberculosis in France will continue its work on an enlarged budget at the request of the French authorities. The campaign against the hookworm will be waged in twelve states here and twenty-one foreign states and countries.

Appropriations have been made for special studies and demonstrations in mental hygiene, for a school of hygiene and public health at Johns Hopkins, and for the development of public health nursing. The chief work in medical education will be the development of training in modern medicine in China through the China Medical Board.

Expenditures for the foundation's war work in 1919 will be for the war demonstration hospital, for work of the medical division of the National Research Council, for assistance in care and treatment of soldiers mentally and nervously disabled, for payment on pledges made in 1918 to the United War Work Fund and for work under the direction of the commissions on Training Camp Activities.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. J. A. L. WADDELL, head of the firm of Waddell & Son, consulting engineers of Kansas City, Missouri, has been elected a corresponding member of the Paris Academy of Sciences.

THE National Geographic Society, on January 10, awarded the Hubbard Gold Medal to Vihjalmur Stefansson, whose explorations during the last five and a half years in the Arctic regions have resulted in the reduction of the unknown Polar regions of the western hemisphere by approximately 100,000 square miles. Admiral Peary introduced Mr. Stefansson at his afternoon lecture, and General Greeley presided when the medal was conferred.

DR. ALEŠ HRDLÍČKA, curator of the division of physical anthropology at the U. S. National Museum and editor of the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, has been elected an honorary fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland.

TRUSTEES of the Massachusetts Agricultural College gave a dinner, on January 14, to Professor William P. Brooks, who has resigned after thirty years' service in the faculty. The United States Department of Agriculture was represented by Dr. E. W. Allen, who paid a high tribute to Professor Brooks's work in the experiment station. Wilfred Wheeler, secretary of the State Board of Agriculture; Dr. H. E. Stockbridge, editor of the *Southern Ruralist*, and representatives of the faculty and trustees, attended the dinner.

At its meeting held January 8, the Rumford Committee of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences voted the following appropriations: To Professor H. M. Randall, of the

University of Michigan, for his research on the infra-red spectrum (additional to former appropriation), \$200; to Professor Alpheus W. Smith, of the University of Ohio, for his research on the Hall effect in rare metals (additional to a previous appropriation), \$100; to Professor A. G. Webster, of Clark University, in aid of his researches on pyrodynamics and practical interior ballistics, \$500; to Professor Julius Stieglitz, of the University of Chicago, in aid of the publication of Marie's Tables of Constants for 1919 (in addition to previous appropriations for earlier years), \$250.

PROFESSOR FREDERIC S. LEE has returned to his work at Columbia University after a ten weeks visit to England and France as the representative of the U. S. Public Health Service in an investigation of the physiological and hygienic aspects of industrial efficiency. He was able to meet many of the representative men of both countries who are engaged in the study and improvement of industrial conditions. While in England he sat as a member of the Industrial Fatigue Research Board, and he gave evidence before the War Cabinet Committee on Women in Industry.

WE learn from *Nature* that Clifford C. Patterson has resigned his position in the physics department of the British National Physical Laboratory, and has joined the General Electric Co., as director of research laboratories.

THE honorary degree of D.Sc. has been conferred by the University of Oxford on Mr. William Crooke, known for his researches on the anthropology of the native races of India.

THE University of Cambridge has conferred its titular degree of M.A., *honoris causa*, on Mr. Frederic William Harmer, of Norwich, in recognition of his researches in geology.

MR. JAMES INGLIS, Detroit, Mich., chairman, Mr. B. C. Butler, chief of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Mr. Samuel L. Rogers, director of the Census, Department of Commerce, Mr. E. D. Walen, associate physicist, Textile Division, Bureau of