Protection which operates under the authority of the Department of the Interior, the first thoroughly national conference on wild life protection which operates under the authority of the Department of the Interior, the first thoroughly national conference on wild life protection was held in Ottawa in February, 1919. Representatives of all the provinces and leaders in wild life protection took part in the conference. The purpose was to bring together every one in the Dominion specially concerned in the protection of the important wild life natural resources of the country and by the exchange of ideas to develop cooperation and efficiency throughout the country in the conservation of wild life.

A COLLECTING BOAT FOR THE NEW YORK AQUARIUM

The New York Aquarium will soon improve the method of collecting its living marine exhibits, the New York Zoological Society having provided funds for the construction of a large well-boat for that institution.

Hitherto the marine collections of the Aquarium have been transported in shipping tanks of limited size, such as could be readily handled on launches or wagons. This method is a primitive one and subjects the occupants of the tanks to more or less crowding and rough usage, with considerable losses in transit.

With a collecting boat available, specimens can be transferred directly from the nets used in capture to the spacious *well* of the boat, where they will remain undisturbed until their arrival at the sea wall behind the Aquarium.

The boat is nearly completed and will be launched early in August. It has a length of thirty-five feet and a depth of water in the well of two and a half feet. It is driven by a twenty-five-horse-power engine, and is also sloop rigged. There are cabin accommodations for four men and stowage space for nets and dredges.

This boat is of staunch construction and will be capable of going anywhere along the adjacent coast. The well being ten feet square, will not only accommodate fishes of larger size than it has hitherto been practicable to transport, but will carry large numbers of specimens without loss. It is important that living marine animals intended for exhibition should reach their destination not merely alive, but in condition to survive in captivity.

While the hundred or more exhibition tanks of the Aquarium usually contain five or six thousand specimens, of two hundred or more species, they have never exhibited half the wealth of species available in the New York region. This has been due solely to lack of facilities for getting the best results. The boat will be manned by the employees of the aquarium and should be able to do all the collecting that will be necessary on week-end trips. It is estimated that the cost of operating the boat will offset the cost of hiring wagons and launches, while the results secured will be immeasurably better.

The aquarium has for many years freely furnished small marine forms of life to the schools and colleges of New York City. An increased supply of such material should enable the aquarium to be still more generous in the distribution of its surplus for educational and research work, while the two millions of persons visiting the institution yearly, will see many northern marine forms that have not yet been exhibited alive. C. H. Townsend

THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL AND THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

At a meeting of the Executive Board of the National Research Council, held in June, on behalf of the Division of Physical Sciences, Mr. Millikan, as retiring chairman, recommended that a communication be sent to the Rockefeller Foundation requesting an annual appropriation of $20,000 for two or three years' traveling expenses in connection with the plan of stimulating and organizing research in physical subjects through the formation of groups of research men in these subjects. The executive board voted to approve the forgoing recommendations of the Division of Physical Sciences and that the chairman of the council be authorized to address a letter to the Rockefeller Foundation requesting an annual appropriation of $20,000 for two or three years in support of these plans.

The executive committee of the Division of Chemistry and Chemical Technology voted that the use of such a sum for a similar purpose in connection with chemical research would not be a wise expenditure at the present time for the following reasons:

1. The proposed plan, to be successful, would require the enlistment of the services of the best men in the country in traveling about and consulting with the various research workers. Such a utilization of their time would detract just so much from the progress of their own research work, with no certainty that the hoped-for stimulation and organization of the research workers of the country would exceed in value this loss.

2. The committee also feels that the first step in attaining the purposes of the proposed project should be a carefully prepared and indexed research census and that the promotion of cooperation between investigators working along similar lines can be best attained by calling a conference at some central point. The program of work for each such conference should be carefully worked out in advance by correspondence with the investigators, supplemented by such personal visits as the chairman of the Division may be able to make.

3. In view of the amount of preparatory work to be done in connection with securing the necessary data, corresponding with the research workers, and arranging the program for such conferences, the committee does not feel that during the first year it would be practicable to call more than five such conferences, but feels that a sum of money, not to exceed $7,000, could be wisely and fruitfully expended in this way during the first year and would be glad to join the Physics Division in requesting such a sum from the Rockefeller Foundation, to be used in this manner. It feels, however, that any requests for additional amounts should be based upon the knowledge and experience gained during the first year.

THE PATRON'S MEDAL OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

AT the anniversary of the Royal Geographical Society on June 2, the medals were presented in accordance with the announcement already made in SCIENCE. The president of the society, Sir Thomas Holditch, in presenting the patron's medal to Mr. Butler Wright for Professor W. M. Davis said:

The Patron's Medal is awarded to Professor William Morris Davis, of Harvard University, for his eminence in the development of physical geography. He is the most eminent of living American geographers, and has devoted his life to investigations in physical geography and to the teaching of geography as a university subject at Harvard, and as visiting professor in several European universities. At the commencement of his career he devoted much attention to meteorology, and his "Elementary Meteorology, 1894" is a standard work. Later he had practical experience as a geologist on the U. S. Geological Survey. For forty years he has given his main attention to the physical geography of the land surface, on which he has published several books and very many papers, some of the most important of these in the *Geographical Journal*. Professor Davis has travelled throughout North and South America and Europe, widely in Asia (including an expedition to Turkestan), Africa and Australasia. All the leading geographers of Europe have at one time or another taken part in geographical excursions on a great scale led by Professor Davis, and have borne witness to his extraordinary grasp of physical features and his power of exposition in the field. As a university teacher he introduced new methods of study, especially in his geographical laboratory at Harvard, which have proved of high value in scientific training. As a theoretical geographer he is known mainly by the completeness with which he worked out the geographical cycle of erosion, and the consequences which follow from the application of the conception. All the work of Professor Davis, both in the field and in the study, is marked by a forceful originality which has acted as a vivifying stimulus to several generations alike of disciples and critics. It is not too much to say that his writings have been largely instrumental in displacing German in favor of English as the language of advanced work in geography. Mr. Butler Wright has undertaken to accept the medal on behalf of Professor Davis, and it is with honor that I give it to so distinguished an American. There has always been a good feeling between American geographers and ourselves, and I hope that this will be a small token that it will continue.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE fiftieth anniversary of the appointment of Dean George H. Perkins as professor of geology in the University of Vermont was celebrated at the recent commencement. The