

ern Rhodesia have been exterminated. In the Eastern Transvaal, near Portuguese territory, a few survivors of a small troop occasionally are seen, but they are being attacked from both sides and are on the verge of extinction. It is possible that there may be a few individuals left in the Knysna Forest, Cape Colony, but the game warden is extremely doubtful about this.

The Addo Bush, near Port Elizabeth, until recently was a waterless scrub of little value. In its center an area of approximately 6,000 acres has long been a reserve for the elephants. The land is not fenced off, and farms at first of small value, but now being developed by irrigation works from Sunday's River, surround it. The herd numbers between 100 and 200 individuals, the only surviving examples of a distinct variety, characterized by a strongly arched forehead, enormous ears, roughly square outline, short fore-legs and a very hairy body.

The proposed action is not a case of wanton destruction. The Provincial Council has given long consideration to the matter, and has passed the decree only after careful investigation by a special committee, whose members were fully alive to the zoological calamity that their recommendation involved. The elephants sally out of their reserve in quest of food and water. They break down fences, stampede cattle, destroy crops, and frighten human beings. They assume that the irrigation canals are intended for their benefit and in taking their baths they destroy the banks and dams.

The committee reported that the elephants could be confined only by the erection of a fence 13 miles in length, and a structure sufficiently strong to contain elephants would have cost at least £20,000. It would have been necessary, moreover, to provide a water supply, and it is more than doubtful if the area enclosed would have provided natural food in sufficient quantities.

#### AN AMERICAN HOSPITAL FOR GREAT BRITAIN

THE *British Medical Journal* reports that plans for the establishment of an American

hospital in London are now in so advanced a stage that a meeting of the governing council had been arranged at the house of the Royal Society of Medicine, at which Lord Reading (who has accepted the presidency of the hospital) and the American Ambassador promised to be present. Upon the signing of the armistice last November it was considered that the moment was ripe for bringing the project of an American hospital to the consideration of the medical profession in Great Britain as well as of the American colony in London. The promoters were of opinion that the need of the foundation of such a hospital was obvious, and that the exceptional opportunities of the moment were never likely to recur. The scope which should be given to the hospital was discussed by a Medical Executive Committee, consisting of Sir William Osler, Sir Arbuthnot Lane, Sir Humphry Rolleston, Sir John Bland-Sutton, Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister, and Mr. Philip Franklin. At the meeting of the American Medical Association, in Atlantic City, in June, Sir Arbuthnot Lane notified officially that the hospital would be established. He pointed out that no more fitting monument could be raised to those who had fallen in the war, and that the hospital was designed to form the headquarters for American medical men who visited Europe for the purpose of post-graduate study. At the meeting the plans of the committees, as described by Sir Arbuthnot Lane, were received with enthusiasm, and he was assured by distinguished members of the profession that the medical men of America were keenly alive to the great value of such an institution in England as a center for study and research. A committee was then formed to ensure the cooperation of American doctors upon a definite footing, and to act in conjunction with the executive committee in London, and, if desirable, to work under the National Research Council at Washington. This American committee consists of Dr. George W. Crile, of Cleveland; Dr. W. J. Mayo and Dr. Charles H. Mayo, of Rochester, Minnesota; Dr. Albert J. Ochsner, of Chicago; Dr. Rudolph Matas, of New Orleans, and Dr.

Franklin Martin, of Chicago. This committee will send a delegate to assist the London Medical Committee here in the detailed organization of the hospital. It has, we are informed, been planned upon the most modern lines, and will be complete in every department of medical and surgical activity; accommodation will be arranged for every class of patient. A research institute, modelled upon the Rockefeller Foundation of New York, will form an integral part of the plan. The consulting staff will bring together distinguished members of the profession in the United States and Great Britain. The visiting staff will be nominated by the executive medical committee. The governing council of the hospital consists of many prominent members of the American colony in London. Mr. Philip Franklin is acting as honorary secretary.

#### THE COMMITTEE ON FOOD AND NUTRITION OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

THIS committee held an organization meeting at Cornell University Medical College, New York City, on July 11. The following tentative program was presented by Professor Henry P. Armsby and was adopted with but slight modifications:

Regarding the committee as being substantially a coordinating rather than a research body, the following tentative outline of objects and methods is suggested.

##### OBJECTS

1. To promote scientific research upon the nutrition of men and of animals (especially animals of agricultural importance) and to bring about closer relations between the two fields of work.

2. To promote study of the economic aspects of nutrition—*i. e.*, study of national and international as distinguished from personal nutrition.

4. Pending the possible establishment of a National Institute of Nutrition, to act as an unofficial clearing house for existing research institutions and to promote coordination of both American and foreign research.

4. To promote sane and authoritative extension and propaganda work in the interest of better nutrition.

##### METHODS

In considering methods, it must be borne in mind that the committee has only moral and not manda-

tory authority. In all plans, care must be taken to preserve the democracy of science.

1. (a) Preparation of a broad program of research in both human and animal nutrition, emphasizing especially gaps in present knowledge with suggestion of problems of more immediate importance.  
(b) Maintenance of research fellowships.  
(c) Subsidizing of especially important researches.
2. (a) The cooperation of statistical agencies would appear necessary.
3. (a) Meetings of the committee and of nutrition investigators in general, especially for the sake of maintaining personal touch and considering programs of research.  
(b) Correspondence and publications.  
(c) Representation of the United States in the International Scientific Commission of Nutrition.
4. (a) Cooperation with existing governmental agencies and educational institutions, especially of the land grant colleges.  
(b) Cooperation with the American Public Health Association.

Among the questions affecting public welfare which require immediate investigation, the committee considered the following the most important:

(a) Practical changes in methods of food production for the purpose of reducing the cost of living without reducing the quality of nutrition.

(b) Diet in relation to industrial efficiency.

(c) The food requirements of growing children.

It was estimated that thirteen fellows of the National Research Council could profitably be put to work at once upon these problems and various possible sources of funds were discussed.

Miss Isabel Bevier was elected an additional member of the subcommittee on human nutrition and Dr. W. H. Jordan and President Raymond A. Pearson were elected additional members of the sub-committee on animal nutrition.

Information has been received from Dr. Alonzo E. Taylor, who is still in Paris, that "The Inter-Allied Scientific Food Commission closed its existence at Brussels on May 25 with recommendations to the governments