

to whom the present low standards and confusion are profitable. It is however felt that inventors, scientists, engineers, manufacturers and others dealing with patents, share the Patent Office desire, and ought to have prompt, reliable service and adequate protection. The officials of the Patent Office have striven and are still striving vainly with inadequate, underpaid, everchanging forces to meet the demands upon the office. The time seems to have come when the public concerned must view the situation as one involving its own interests and proceed as it would in any other matter to secure what is right and just.

In a sense, "patent reform prospects" may evidently be said now to depend very largely upon the action of those "to whom these patents come."

BERT RUSSELL,
Secretary Patent Office Society

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

MEMORIAL TO THE LATE FREDERICK DU CANE GODMAN

A COMMITTEE has been formed under the chairmanship of Lord Rothschild, F.R.S., to establish a memorial to the late Frederick Du Cane Godman, F.R.S., in acknowledgment of his lifelong devotion to the interests of natural history and in grateful testimony of the many valuable benefits conferred by him, in promoting the study of natural science in Great Britain.

At a meeting of the committee held at the Natural History Museum on April 30 last, it was resolved that the memorial should take, primarily, the form of a bronze tablet with medallion portraits of Mr. Godman and of the late Mr. Osbert Salvin, Mr. Godman's lifelong friend and collaborator in all his scientific enterprises, and that this tablet, with a suitable inscription, should be offered to the trustees of the British Museum, to be placed in the Natural History Museum, at South Kensington.

The committee hopes to be in a position to do something additional to perpetuate the memory of Mr. Godman, by helping to establish a less local form of memorial. It is the inten-

tion of Dame Alice Godman and her two daughters to found an exploration fund in the interests of the Natural History Museum. For this purpose they have offered to establish a trust with the sum of £5,000, the proceeds of which are to be devoted to making collections for the advancement of science and for the benefit of the museum. This fund is to be called the "Godman Memorial Exploration Fund." Dame Alice's project has met with the warm approval of the trustees of the British Museum. The committee, therefore, propose that any amount received by them over and above that required for the bronze tablet shall be added to the exploration fund. They also hope that this may form a permanent basis for future donations and bequests for the same purpose.

Mr. Godman's work is too well known to need any lengthy exposition here. He and Salvin commenced their zoological exploration of Mexico and Central America in 1860, and carried it on for over 40 years. The material so obtained was used in the preparation of the monumental work, "Biologia Centrali-Americana," consisting of sixty-three quarto volumes, which were published between 1879 and 1915. Of these, fifty-two are devoted to zoology, five to botany, and six to archeology. The "Biologia" certainly constitutes the greatest single work in natural history ever planned and carried out by private individuals, and rivals such national undertakings as the "Challenger Report," which, of course, was financed by the British government. The whole of the vast natural history collections on which the "Biologia" was based were presented by Messrs. Godman and Salvin, and (after the death of Mr. Salvin) by Mr. Godman, to the nation, unfettered by any stipulations, and these collections are now in the National Museum of Natural History. But Mr. Godman's services to science do not rest alone on the publication of his great work. The value of his gifts to the Natural History Museum, apart from the "Biologia" material, must amount to many thousands of pounds, and he was ever ready to help any undertaking for the benefit of his beloved science.

An appeal to him invariably brought forth a favorable response.

The committee will welcome the cooperation of Americans. Contributions should be sent to Mr. C. E. Fagan, honorary treasurer, Godman Memorial Fund, Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London, S.W. 7.

EXHIBIT OF MARINE CAMOUFLAGE

THE Brooklyn Museum *Quarterly* describes a special exhibit held at the museum of models, designs and other objects illustrating the practise and some of the principles of marine camouflage. The exhibition was arranged by the curator of the department of natural science, and was made possible through the interest and cooperation of Mr. William A. Mackay, of the United States Shipping Board, camoufleur of the Second Naval District, and Lieutenants Harold Van Buskirk and Everett L. Warner, of the Camouflage Section, Bureau of Construction and Repair, United States Navy. Numerous other naval officers, members of the American Society of Marine Camoufleurs, and others, also contributed to the success of the exhibit by lending illustrative material.

A series of photographs made in the naval laboratories at Washington, D. C., and Rochester, N. Y., showed successive stages of the experimental work by means of which the colors and patterns employed in the camouflage designs had been arrived at. These illustrations included views of the elaborate periscopic "theater" at Rochester, in which painted models of ships were tested under conditions which simulated, in all essential respects, the open ocean. The history of marine camouflage was briefly traced by means of labels and colored models, while approved as well as experimental designs of the "low-visibility" type, the British and American "dazzles," and the French system, were shown by means of models, photographs and colored lithographs issued by the Navy Department.

A case in the center of the exhibition room contained a miniature convoy of transports in charge of a cruiser and a flotilla of destroyers, each camouflaged model an exact replica of its

namesake, or, rather, the original working model from which the transport or war vessel had been camouflaged. A simple, illuminated theater, equipped with a periscope, enabled visitors to observe a model as if from a submarine point of view, and, moreover, demonstrated surprisingly well the distortion and other types of illusion produced by the camoufleur's design.

THE PHILADELPHIA MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

THE fall meeting of the American Chemical Society will be held at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, Philadelphia, Pa., under the auspices of the Philadelphia Section, from Tuesday, September 2 to Saturday, September 6, 1919, inclusive. The Philadelphia Section, situated, as it is, so near the center of our chemical activities, is planning an extensive and unusual program and hopes to rival the Buffalo meeting in interest.

The Rubber Division holds its first meeting, and a Dye Section is to be established which will function as a separate section this year. Philadelphia has a large number of chemical industries within its limits and in the surrounding territory, and its large and very enthusiastic local membership, together with the enhanced interest in chemistry manifest throughout the nation, insures a large gathering and an important program. It is already certain that the meeting will be one of the largest, if not the largest, in the history of our society, for we have not only a continually increasing membership, but a continually increasing enthusiasm for the accomplishments of our profession.

Registration will take place at the Bellevue-Stratford, beginning at 3 P.M., Tuesday, September 2. Information Bureau will be located at the Hotel.

The general program is as follows:

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

4 P.M.—Council meeting at the Bellevue Stratford.

7 P.M.—Dinner for the Council as guests of the Philadelphia Section.