Thus visitors were further able to increase their fund of information regarding wild life by a study of pictures giving full colors, by specimens and by books giving detailed facts.

This experiment in making conservationists out of "vacationists" proved so successful that another year will doubtless see the work expanded and the opportunity to study under a nature guide offered to thousands of those on their holidays in all parts of the state.

A COMPENDIUM OF CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL CONSTANTS[1]

SCIENCE played so important a rôle in the war that one of the war's outcomes has been a national stock-taking by each of the principal countries engaged in the struggle of its condition, both as regards the scientific knowledge and resources already in its possession and the means it has for increasing this knowledge. England, Japan and America have all established departments or councils of national scientific research, either supported by government, as in the case of England and Japan, or by private funds, as in the case of our own National Research Council.

Out of this stock-taking has come the realization that certain scientific knowledge and the means of access to it have been largely in the hands of the Germans, and that other countries have been obliged to rely on German publications in order to make any use of it at all. A notable instance of this is afforded by the situation as regards the chemical and physical constants so indispensable for precise work in all chemistry and physics and in the application of these sciences to industry.

The National Research Council, therefore, with the cooperation of the American Chemical Society and the American Physical Society has planned to compile and issue a critical American compendium of chemical and physical constants which shall be up to date and correct, which, by the way, the German publications were not. And yet these badly organized and inaccurate German compendia were the only ones available to the American experts during the war in connection with their all-important scientific work on the pressing problems of war technique.

This will be a tremendous task and will involve the expenditure of at least $100,000 which must be obtained from private sources. The committee representing the National Research Council and the American Chemical and Physical Societies will have to scour all the university and research laboratories of the country for the needed facts. In addition the committee will attempt to find out from the business and industrial concerns of the country whose work is based on applied chemistry and physics a list of all the constants required in their work, and then will undertake to have these determined by scientific investigators and included in the compendium. A successful outcome of this large undertaking will be of inestimable value to the scientific and material strength of the nation.

[1] Press bulletin issued by the National Research Council.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

AT the October meeting of the executive board of the National Research Council Professor Vernon Kellogg, of Stanford University, was elected executive secretary of the council. He will hold this position in addition to that of chairman of the council's division of educational relations which he assumed last July. Professor Kellogg's work with Mr. Hoover's relief organizations and the Food Administration, which extended from May, 1915, to the present, is now practically at an end, although he remains one of the directors of the American Relief Administration European Children's Fund, which is the one still active organization under Mr. Hoover's direction.

AT its meeting held on October 8, the Rumford Committee of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences voted the following appropriations: To Professor Frances G. Wick, of Vassar College, in aid of her researches on the phosphorescence of hexagonite and of fluorite at ordinary and low temperatures, $300; to Professor Robert W. Wood, of the Johns Hop-