

the autumn months of 1919, stirred renewed interest in the various bills and resolutions providing for investigations of that disease, but no final action had been taken at the time of this report, although Mr. Harding's S. J. Res. '76 was reported in the Senate on October 1.

On September 3, Mr. McKellar introduced S. 2920: "To enable the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out investigations of the causes and means of prevention of fires and dust explosions in industrial plants." The bill provides \$100,000 for such investigations. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

A plan for private development under Federal concessions, of the platinum resources of Alaska is contained in H. R. 8988: "To incorporate the United States Platinum Corporation and to aid in the development of the mineral resources of Alaska, and for other purposes," introduced on September 3 by Mr. O'Connell (by request). The proposed Corporation would have a capital stock not to exceed \$50,000,000; would be exempt from Federal taxation; would be empowered to receive concessions and leases of government-owned platinum sands in Alaska; would pay a royalty of one eighth of its net products; and would furnish \$100,000 for the maintenance of five "U. S. Government Commissioners of Platinum and its Allied Industries," whose duties are not defined in the bill. Referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

No action was taken on the invitation of the French government to send delegates to a meteorological conference in Paris on September 30, and the United States was, therefore, not officially represented.

AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

THE thirty seventh stated meeting of The American Ornithologists' Union will convene in New York City, from November 11 to 13. The headquarters will be at The Belleclaire, Broadway and 77th Street. Owing to the crowded condition of hotels in New York, members intending to be present are urged to make reservations well in advance. Reserva-

tions might also be made at The Pennsylvania, opposite the Pennsylvania Station, 7th Avenue and 33d Street.

The public meetings will be held at the American Museum of Natural History, 77th Street and Central Park, West, from 10 A.M. until 4 P.M. each day. The reading of papers will form a prominent feature of the meetings. All classes of members are earnestly requested to contribute, and to notify the secretary before November 5, as to the titles of their communications, and the length of time required for their presentation, so that a program for each day may be prepared.

As this is the first meeting since the war, interesting reports may be expected from some of the members who served in the military or naval service. In addition to the usual social features there will be opportunities to visit the New York Zoological Park, the Brooklyn Museum, Audubon's home in Audubon Park, and the New York Historical Society, where the original drawings of Audubon's Birds of America are preserved.

Each member is requested to recommend to the secretary the name of at least one new associate for election to the union.

T. S. PALMER,
Secretary

1939 BILTMORE ST., N.W.,
WASHINGTON, D. C.,

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. THEODORE W. RICHARDS, professor of chemistry at Harvard University, and director of the Wolcott Gibbs Memorial Laboratory, has been elected a foreign member of the Royal Society of London.

PROVOST EDGAR F. SMITH, of the University of Pennsylvania, received the degree of doctor of laws from Queen's College at Kingston, Ontario, at the convocation of Canadian universities on October 16.

DR. FEDERICO GIOLITTI, formerly professor of metallurgical chemistry and metallography at Turin has been presented with the Bessemer medal of the British Iron and Steel Institute.

DR. ERIC K. RIDEAL, a graduate of Cambridge University and of the University of