

ciety. An invitational program has been arranged for Wednesday afternoon as follows:

C. E. McClung: "The work of the National Research Council in relation to zoology."

J. T. Patterson: "Studies in Polyembryony."

C. H. Eigenmann: "Faunal areas on the Pacific slope of South America."

V. E. Shelford: "Physiological life histories of terrestrial animals."

The entire program is in conjunction with Section F of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The address of Professor William Patten, of Dartmouth College, the retiring vice-president of Section F, will be given following a zoology dinner on Wednesday evening, December 31. The subject is: "The Message of the Biologist." Following the address, moving pictures taken on his recent Barbadoes-Antigua Expedition will be shown and explained by C. C. Nutting.

The Statler Hotel will be headquarters for the zoologists.

W. C. ALLEE,

*Secretary-Treasurer*

#### THE SECTION OF GEOLOGY OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

SECTION E—Geology and Geography—of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will hold its meetings at St. Louis, Mo., on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 30 and 31, with the possibility of an extra session on New Year's Day if enough papers are offered to make such a session desirable. The address of the retiring vice-president of Section E, Dr. David White, of the U. S. Geological Survey, will be upon the topic "Geology as it is taught in the United States." One joint session with the Association of American Geographers is being planned. The meetings of Section E will be presided over by Dr. Charles Kenneth Leith, of the University of Wisconsin. Titles of papers to be read before the Section should be in the hands of the secretary, Dr. Rollin T. Chamberlin, University of Chicago, before December 12.

#### THE SECRETARYSHIP OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

At a meeting of the committee on policy of the American Association for the Advance-

ment of Science, held in New York City on November 13, Dr. L. O. Howard, who has served the association for twenty-two years as permanent secretary, stated that in view of the great enlargement in the work of the Bureau of Entomology, of which he is the chief, and the increasing responsibilities of the office of the permanent secretary of the association, he felt unable to hold much longer the two offices. He proposed that efforts be made to find an executive officer who would devote his entire time to the work of the association and the national organization of scientific work and scientific men for the promotion and the diffusion of science. There was consequently appointed a committee on the permanent secretaryship, consisting of Dr. Simon Flexner, president of the association, Professor A. A. Noyes, and Dr. J. McKeen Cattell.

It is believed that the secretaryship of the Smithsonian Institution, the presidency of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, the chairmanship of the National Research Council and the permanent secretaryship of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, are offices of coordinate importance, and that the secretary of the association, directly responsible to the scientific men of the country, should hold a position and exert an influence not inferior to that of any scientific man in the United States.

The filling of these offices is difficult, for it is undesirable to divert able scientific men from their work. But in the existing state of society there are needed those who will sacrifice their research work in order that others may have better opportunity, as in war men are ready to sacrifice their lives to enable others to live in freedom. It is possible that the secretary of the American Association by proper organization of scientific societies, scientific institutions and scientific men and by securing the interest and support of the public might increase by ten per cent. the productivity of science in America; only a Newton or a Darwin could do so much by his individual research.

The conduct of research under modern conditions requires executive ability, and men of

science are likely to possess this quality, as has been demonstrated by those who have been called upon for administrative work both in peace and in war. In filling executive positions of a scientific character, however, it may be desirable to consider those whose scientific work can be replaced, and those not engaged in research, but having a sympathetic interest in its promotion.

For the secretaryship of the American Association a man is needed who, either through his own work or through association with men of science, appreciates the supreme importance of scientific research for human welfare, both when its applications are obvious and when they are not. He must know that research can only be advanced by drawing to it the ablest men and by giving them the best opportunities, and that for recruits and for support the sympathetic interest of a wide public is essential. He should have the executive and administrative ability which keeps details in order and initiates new movements, and at the same time possess those personal qualities that compel others to share his convictions.

The committee on the permanent secretaryship of the American Association will be glad to receive suggestions concerning the conduct of this office and concerning men competent to fill it. The committee on policy has recommended an increase of the annual dues to \$5, and with its 12,000 members the association should be able to support the secretary and his work as adequately as the office warrants.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. FRANK SCHLESINGER, director of the Allegheny Observatory of the University of Pittsburgh, has been elected director of the Yale Observatory.

MR. C. H. BIRDSEYE has been appointed chief topographic engineer of the U. S. Geological Survey, to succeed M. R. B. Marshall, who recently resigned as chief geographer. Mr. Birdseye was formerly chief of one of the divisions of topographic mapping and during the war served in France as lieutenant-colonel of the Coast Artillery.

COLONEL FREDERICK F. RUSSELL, of the Medical Corps of the army, has been appointed official representative of the medical department of the army in the government division of the National Research Council.

DR. FRANKLIN H. MARTIN, of Chicago, formerly colonel, M. C., U. S. Army, had conferred on him the Order of Commander of Saint Michael and Saint George by the Prince of Wales, in Washington, D. C., on November 14.

THE Boylston Medical Committee appointed by the president and fellows of Harvard College and consisting of Dr. William F. Whitney, chairman, Dr. Harold C. Ernst, Harvard Medical School, Boston, secretary, and Drs. William T. Porter, Edward H. Nichols, Reid Hunt, Henry A. Christian and John Warren, announces that at the annual meeting, held in Boston, in 1916, a prize of \$300 was awarded for an essay entitled "Studies of the *Streptococcus of Smith*," by Dr. Wilson G. Smillie, Cambridge, Mass.

R. C. ALLEN, Michigan state geologist, has resigned his office to become secretary of the Lake Superior Iron Ore Association, with offices at Cleveland.

MR. D. DALE CONDIT has resigned from the Geological Survey, and Mr. Ralph W. Howell is on a year's leave of absence, to accept positions as petroleum geologists with S. Pearson and Sons, Ltd. They sailed for England about the middle of October. Professor Olaf P. Jenkins, of the University of Arizona, who, as we recently announced, had planned to accept a position with this company has become geologist with the Sinclair Consolidated Oil Corporation, in New York City, and Mr. A. C. Veatch has been placed in charge of the exploration department of the same company.

THE council of the Ray Society has appointed Dr. W. T. Calman, of the Zoological Department, British Museum (Natural History), to be secretary in succession to the late Mr. John Hopkinson.

DR. WILLIAM H. RANKIN, for the last five years assistant professor of plant pathology in