

BIOLOGICAL SURVEYS OF STATES BY THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
DURING 1919

Work in biological investigations of birds and mammals by the Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, and cooperating institutions, while somewhat interrupted by the war, is rapidly getting back to normal. The work falls into three principal divisions, namely, investigations of habits, distribution, migration, and systematic studies of birds, investigation of the habits and relationships of mammals, and natural history surveys of the states. This note deals with work under the latter head only.

In Wisconsin the State Geological and Natural History Survey is cooperating with the United States Department of Agriculture in the work, which is in charge of Dr. Hartley H. T. Jackson for the Department of Agriculture, and Professor George Wagner of the University of Wisconsin for the State of Wisconsin. Work was begun May 15 and continued until September 20. The principal field of cooperation was the northwestern part of the state, special attention being devoted to the Apostle Islands in Lake Superior. Mr. Harry H. Sheldon for the Biological Survey, and Mr. Arthur J. Poole for the Wisconsin Survey assisted throughout the season.

In Montana, Mr. Marcus A. Hanna, assisted by Mr. Harry Malleis, worked the valley of the Missouri and the bordering plains and mountains from the mouth of Milk River westward, under the general direction of Mr. Edward A. Preble. The Little Rockies, McCasin Mountains, Big and Little Belt Mountains and Castle Mountains were visited during the latter part of the summer. Victor N. Householder was a member of the party during the early part of the season.

The biological survey of Florida was continued by Mr. Arthur H. Howell. Field studies were carried on during March and April over a large part of Lee County and in the region around Lake Okeechobee. The collections in the Florida State Museum were examined and the specimens carefully identified. A collection of bird records from Florida, both published and unpublished,

shows approximately 390 species and subspecies recorded from the state.

Cooperating at different times with the Biological Survey in field work in the state of Washington were the following: Professor William T. Shaw, State College of Washington, Pullman; Professor H. S. Brode, Whitman College, Walla Walla; Professor J. W. Hungate, State Normal School, Cheney; Professor J. B. Flett, National Park Service, Longmire; Mr. William L. Finley and Mrs. Finley, Portland, Oregon; and Stanton Warburton, Jr., of Tacoma. The Biological Survey was represented for a part of the time by Mr. Stanley G. Jewett, Pendleton, Oregon; and throughout the season by Mr. George G. Cantwell, Puyallup, Washington, and Dr. Walter P. Taylor, of the Biological Survey, the last named in charge of the work. Investigations were made in the Blue Mountains area of extreme southeastern Washington, in which occurs an unusual mixture of Rocky Mountain and Cascade Mountain types; and in Mount Rainier National Park, in connection with which the circuit of Mount Rainier was made for the first time, so far as known, by any vertebrate zoological expedition.

In North Dakota Mr. Vernon Bailey worked through September and October to get data on the hibernation of mammals and on the stores of food laid up for winter by non-hibernating species. He has returned with many valuable notes to be added to his report on the mammals of the state, and with an interesting collection of live rodents for study of habits in captivity.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

SIR WILLIAM OSLER, regius professor of medicine at Oxford University, died on December 29, aged seventy years.

DR. L. O. HOWARD, chief of the Bureau of Entomology of the United States Department of Agriculture and for twenty-two years permanent secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, was elected president of the association at the St. Louis meeting. Dr. Edward L. Nichols, who last

June retired from the chair of physics at Cornell University, was elected general secretary of the association. The other officers elected and a report of the meeting are given elsewhere in this issue.

DR. SHEPHERD IVORY FRANZ was elected president of the American Psychological Association at the meeting held in Cambridge last week.

PROFESSOR RALPH B. PERRY, of Harvard University, was elected president of the American Philosophical Association at the meeting in Ithaca last week. Professor Alfred H. Jones, of Brown University, was elected secretary.

At the Boston meeting of the Paleontological Society, officers were elected as follows: *President*, F. B. Loomis, Amherst; *Vice-presidents*, C. C. Case, Ann Arbor; Ralph Arnold, Los Angeles; E. M. Kindle, Ottawa; *Secretary*, R. S. Bassler, Washington, D. C.; *Treasurer*, Richard S. Lull, New Haven; *Editor*, W. D. Matthew, New York.

At the Society of American Bacteriologists, also meeting in Boston, the following officers were elected: Dr. Charles Krumweide, of the research laboratory of the New York Health Department, *president*; Dr. F. C. Harrison, president of the MacDonald College in Montreal, *vice-president*; Dr. A. Parker Hitchens, of Indianapolis, was reelected *secretary-treasurer*, and Dr. J. W. M. Bunker was chosen *assistant secretary*, a new position in the organization. New members of the council are Dr. F. P. Gay, professor of pathology and bacteriology at the University of California, and Dr. C. G. Bull, professor of immunology at the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene in Baltimore. A committee on national research was created, consisting of all the past presidents, with Dr. Bunker as executive secretary, and Dr. S. C. Prescott, of Boston, as chairman.

THE William H. Nichols medal of the American Chemical Society will be conferred on Dr. Irving Langmuir for his work on "the arrangement of electrons in atoms and molecules," at the March meeting of the New York Section of the society.

THE Perkin medal for 1919 has been awarded by the American Section of the Society of Chemical Industry to Dr. Chas. F. Chandler, for his work on the standardization of kerosene. The committee in making the award called especial attention also to the work Professor Chandler, as head of the chemistry department of the school of mines at Columbia University, has done in training men for the chemical industry. The medal will be presented to Dr. Chandler, "dean of American chemists," at the regular meeting of the Society of Chemical Industry, American Section, at the Chemists' Club, New York City, on January 16.

DR. LOUIS A. BAUER will repeat his illustrated lecture on "The Solar Eclipse of May 29, 1919, and the Einstein Effect" at the Johns Hopkins University, Monday afternoon, January 12; at Yale University, under the auspices of the Society of Sigma Xi on the evening of January 13; and at Brown University on the evening of January 16. At the stated meeting of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences at Boston on January 14, he will give an illustrated address on "Observations of the Solar Eclipse at Cape Palmas, Liberia, and other Stations."

At the meeting of the Philosophical Society of Washington on January 3 the following papers were read: Enoch Karrer: I. "Diffusion of light in a searchlight beam." II. "The contrast sensibility of the eye at low illumination." F. E. Wright: "The contrast sensibility of the eye as a factor in the resolving power of the microscope." L. A. Bauer: "Further results of observations of the solar eclipse of May 29, 1919."

SIR OLIVER LODGE delivered the Trueman-Wood lecture on "Some Possible Sources of Energy," at the Royal Society of Arts on December 10.

WE learn from *Nature* that on December 10, a memorial tablet with a medallion portrait and a suitable inscription was unveiled in memory of Sir Ramsay in the presence of Lady Ramsay and a large number of friends and members of the University of Glasgow.

The address of presentation was delivered by Professor G. G. Henderson, of the Regius chair of chemistry, and the custody of the memorial was accepted on behalf of the University Court by the vice-chancellor. The medallion is the work of Mr. Paulin, and is an excellent likeness; the design of the memorial is due to Sir John J. Burnet. The mural tablet is placed at the head of the great staircase leading to the Bute Hall and the Hunterian Museum. It is set in an arched recess lined with grey marble, and bears reliefs illustrating Sir William Ramsay's numerous decorations and honors.

THE trustees of the American Medical Association have made an appropriation of money to further meritorious research in subjects relating to scientific medicine and of practical interest to the medical profession, which otherwise could not be carried on to completion. Applications for grants should be sent to the Committee on Scientific Research, American Medical Association, 535 North Dearborn Street Chicago, before February 1, 1920, when action will be taken on the applications at hand.

WE learn from the *Journal* of the American Medical Association that on the initiative of Professors Forssner, Forssell, Holmgren and Dr. Key, of Stockholm, and Professors Quensel and Petré, of Upsala, and Lund, a meeting was held recently to organize the Svenska Sällskapet for medicinsk forskning to promote scientific research in Sweden. Already 169 members are enrolled and the officers elected. They include a number of prominent laymen, directors of banks, consuls and others besides leading professors in the medical sciences. Professor Quensel in the opening address emphasized that the rapidly changing world has brought the necessity for new orientations and the blocking out of new routes, and he cited the saying, "If the human race can be perfected, it is in the medical sciences that the means for this must be sought." The aim of the new society is to provide funds for medical research, and the treasury starts with a donation of 5,000 crowns from a legacy.

THE next annual congress of the Royal Institute of Public Health, which suspended these meetings during the war, is to be held at Brussels from May 20 to 24, inclusive, by invitation of the Burgomaster, M. Adolphe Max. Delegates will be invited from all the universities, municipalities and other public bodies in due course. Meanwhile, all wishing to take part should communicate with the Hon. Secretaries, the Royal Institute of Public Health, 37 Russell-square, London, W.C. 1.

THE magnetic-survey vessel *Carnegie* left Washington on October 9, on a two year cruise of 64,000 nautical miles. She arrived at her first port of call, Dakar, Senegal, West Coast of Africa, on November 23, but owing to bubonic plague sailed a few days later and is now en-route to Buenos Aires, Argentina, arriving there about the end of January. Mr. J. A. Fleming, Chief of the Magnetic Survey Division of the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism, has been designated to represent the director of the department in the inspection of the work and vessel at Buenos Aires, and he accordingly sailed from New York on December 31. The scientific personnel of the present cruise consists of the following: J. P. Ault, in command; H. F. Johnston, magnetician, second in command; Russell Pemberton, surgeon and observer; A. Thomas, H. R. Grummann and R. R. Mills, observers.

ACCORDING to the *Journal* of the American Medical Association during a recess in sessions of the International Conference of Women Physicians in New York, thirty-five distinguished women physicians from foreign countries visited the Johns Hopkins Hospital recently and studied facilities at the institution. The general program for the day was arranged by Dr. Florence R. Sabin, Baltimore, who received the delegates. The first inspection was of the gynecologic department, where Drs. Howard A. Kelley, Guy Hunner and Thomas S. Cullen acted as pilots. At the Harriet Lane Home, an exhibition of children's diseases was prepared. Dr. John J. Abel, gave a short address on the general subject of physiology, followed by a talk on dietetics by E.V. McCollum. Dr. George L.

Streeter gave a talk on embryology. Luncheon was served at 1 o'clock, after which Dr. Adolf Meyer, head of the Henry Phipps Psychiatric Clinic, lectured on the work of his department. The remainder of the afternoon was devoted to a study of the obstetric departments.

PROFESSOR GEORGE C. WHIPPLE, of Harvard University, as has been noted in *SCIENCE*, has been appointed director of the division of sanitation in the Bureau of Hygiene and Public Health of the League of Red Cross Societies. He has been granted leave of absence from Harvard University for the second half year and will go to Geneva in February, returning to Cambridge in September, 1920. The organization referred to will be virtually the Health Department of the League of Nations, and it will offer exceptional opportunities for sanitary engineers. Heretofore the Red Cross has chiefly engaged in relief work. It is now to add to this work that of preventing disease by improving sanitary conditions. Professor Whipple is a member of the engineering firm of Hazen, Whipple & Fuller, New York City. Another member of this firm, Colonel Francis F. Longley, has been appointed associate director of the division and will go to Geneva about the first of December in order to be ready to undertake emergency work in the Balkans should typhus fever break out there.

THE fall meeting of the Bureau of Personnel Research, which was recently held at the Carnegie Institute of Technology, was attended by representatives of the following cooperative concerns: the American Multigraph Sales Company, the American Rolling Mill Company, the Burroughs Adding Machine Company, the Carnegie Steel Company, the Commonwealth Edison Company, Crutchfield and Woolfolk, Equitable Life Insurance Company, B. F. Goodrich Company, John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company, H. J. Heinz Company, Kaufmann Department Stores, Miller Saw-Trimmed Company, Packard Motor Car Company, Philadelphia Company, Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Company E. W. Woods Company, and The Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company. Dr. Bingham, the

head of the division of applied psychology of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, was one of the speakers at the meeting.

A BILL recently has been passed by the Canadian House of Commons creating a federal department of health and providing for a minister of health and advisory committee. The authority of the department will extend to all matters affecting health within the jurisdiction of the Dominion of Canada.

AT the recent Bournemouth meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science a meeting was held with the object of eliciting opinions as to whether the recently formed Scientific Research Association should be continued or wound up. Professor A. Gray presided over a small attendance. It was explained by Mr. A. C. Tansley, the acting secretary, that the functions of the new association were the establishment of adequate means of communication and coordination in science, the organization of the endowment for research, and publicity and propaganda. Circulars sent out last spring to 2,000 scientific people had elicited only 230 replies. There appeared to be a certain amount of hostility to the association on the part of leading scientific men, and there was apathy on the part of the general mass of scientific workers. No decision was arrived at, but Professor Gray said that they must press upon already existing bodies the desirability of conserving to the very utmost the interests of pure science.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

A SCHOOL of public hygiene has been established as a separate department of the University of Pennsylvania. This department, which has been under the supervision of the medical school, and which was the first school of public hygiene in America, will continue under the direction of Dr. Alexander C. Abbott as director.

A NEW \$150,000 chemistry building has been completed at the State College of the University of Montana, Bozeman. Appropriate dedicatory exercises will be held on January 14. Professor W. F. Coover, head of the chemistry department of the Iowa State College, will de-