

his training is highly qualified to deal with the subjects of colloids from its theoretical standpoint, as well as its practical side.

Arrangements will be made for holding a series of discussions during the conference on the subjects treated in the lectures.

The conference will be opened by Sir Robert Falconer, LL.D., president of the University of Toronto, on Wednesday, January 5, at five o'clock, when Professor McLennan will deliver the opening lecture on "Molecules and atoms."

J. C. McLENNAN,  
*Professor of Physics*

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO,  
November 22, 1920

#### MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

THE meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union in Washington, D. C., November 8-11, 1920, was one of the largest in the history of the union. One half of the Fellows and about ten per cent. of the entire membership were in attendance. The business meetings on Monday were held at the Cosmos Club and the other sessions at the U. S. National Museum. The election of Fellows and Members included Robert Cushman Murphy, of Brooklyn, N. Y., as Fellow; E. C. Stuart Baker and Dr. Percy Lowe, of London, Honorary Fellows; 13 Foreign Corresponding Fellows; 5 Members and 307 Associates. The election of officers for 1921 resulted as follows: President, Dr. Witmer Stone, Philadelphia; Vice-president, Dr. George Bird Grinnell and Dr. Jonathan Dwight, New York; Secretary, Dr. T. S. Palmer, 1939 Biltmore St., Washington, D. C.; Treasurer, W. L. McAtee, Biological Survey, Washington, D. C. The single vacancy in the council was filled by the selection of Dr. W. H. Osgood, of Chicago, and the other six members were re-elected. The program of nearly 40 papers, five of which were illustrated by motion pictures, covered a wide range of subjects relating to North American birds and also included papers on the birds of Argentina, Nicaragua, Peru, Europe and Madagascar. In connection with the meeting an exhibition

of drawings, paintings and photographs of birds by American artists, supplemented by a series of prints showing the development of zoological illustration as applied to birds from the earliest times down to date, was arranged in the Division of Prints in the Library of Congress.

T. S. PALMER,  
*Secretary*

#### THE BULAWAYO MEETING OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION

THE eighteenth annual session of the South African Association for the Advancement of Science was held in Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia, on July 14-17, with Dr. I. B. Pole Evans, as president. From the report in *Nature* we learn that there were the usual receptions and functions, together with visits to the Khami ruins, the Matoppos, the Victoria Falls and Livingstone. A party, after the conclusion of the official meeting, visited the Great Zimbabwe. More than sixty papers were read in the various sections, and the attendance was a large one more than 130 members proceeding by special train from the Transvaal, as well as some from the Cape Peninsula and Natal.

The president Dr. I. B. Pole Evans, chief of the Division of Botany and director of the Botanical Survey of the Union, gave a most interesting address on "The veld: its resources and dangers," the address being illustrated by a series of beautiful lantern-slides. He reviewed recent progress in botanical knowledge, and outlined the notable advance that had been made by the members of the Botanical Survey in respect to systematic ecology, indigenous grasses, fungi and poisonous plants. Mr. H. E. Wood, of the Union Observatory, Johannesburg, as president of Section A, gave an address on "Recent progress in astronomy," noting that the present year was the centenary of the foundation of the Royal Observatory at the Cape. "Geology in relation to mining" was the subject of the presidential address to Section B, given by Mr. F. P. Mennell, who has seen all the later developments in the mining industry of Rhodesia. Dr. T. R. Sim, late government

forester in Natal, delivered the presidential address to Section C on "Causes leading towards progressive evolution of the flora of South Africa." In Section D the presidential address was delivered by Mr. C. W. Mally, Cape Entomologist, whose subject was "Some zoological factors in the economic development of South Africa." The Rev. H. A. Junod, president of Section E, gave a most interesting address on "The magic conception of nature among Bantus." "Labor conditions in South Africa" was the subject of Professor R. Lehfeldt's presidential address to Section F. An evening lecture was delivered by Professor J. A. Wilkinson on "The nitrogen problem."

The South African medal and grant were awarded to Professor E. Warren. Johannesburg is now the seat of the headquarters of the association, and the next meeting will be held at Durban in July, 1921.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

At the anniversary meeting of the Royal Society on November 30 the following medals were conferred by the retiring president, Sir Joseph Thomson: A Royal medal to Mr. W. Bateson, for his contributions to biological science, especially his studies in genetics, and a Royal medal to Professor G. H. Hardy, for his researches in pure mathematics, particularly in the analytic theory of numbers; the Copley medal to Mr. H. T. Brown, for his work on the chemistry of carbohydrates, on the assimilation of atmospheric carbon dioxide by leaves, and on gaseous diffusion through small apertures; the Rumford medal to Lord Rayleigh, for researches into the properties of gases at high vacua; the Davy medal to Mr. C. T. Heycock, for his work in physical chemistry, especially on the composition and constitution of alloys; the Darwin medal to Professor R. H. Biffen, for his work on scientific principles applied to the breeding of plants; and the Hughes medal to Professor O. W. Richardson, for his work in experimental physics, especially thermionics.

At the meeting of the Geographical Society of Philadelphia, held on December 1, the

Elisha Kent Kane gold medal of the society was conferred on Dr. A. Hamilton Rice in recognition of his pioneer exploratory work in South America.

THE Franklin Institute of the State of Pennsylvania acting through its committee on science and the arts, at its meeting on November 17, 1920, awarded to Dr. W. L. R. Emmet, of Schenectady, its Elliott Cresson Gold Medal. The wording of the award is as follows: "After a careful consideration and study of Dr. Emmet's work relating to ship propulsion, the institute is of the opinion that it deserves the highest award in its gift for the recognition of inventions of signal importance and awards to Dr. W. L. R. Emmet the Elliott Cresson Medal in recognition of his notable contributions to the art of ship propulsion!"

THE gold medal of the British Institution of Mining and Metallurgy, has been awarded to Sir Thomas Kirke Rose "in recognition of his eminent services in the advancement of metallurgical science, with special reference to the metallurgy of gold."

SIR WILLIAM BEALE has been elected president of the Mineralogical Society, London.

DR. JAMES M. TAYLOR, since 1873 professor of mathematics at Colgate University, has retired from active service.

DR. JOHN B. WATSON has resigned from the professorship of psychology which he has held since 1908 at the Johns Hopkins University.

DR. D. R. HOOKER has resigned his position as associate professor of physiology in the Johns Hopkins Medical School, to engage entirely in research.

PROFESSOR C.-E. A. WINSLOW, of the Yale University School of Medicine, has been granted leave of absence for the spring term in order that he may assume the directorship of the public health activities of the League of Red Cross Societies at Geneva. Professor Winslow will return to New Haven for the opening of the fall term, October 1 next.

DR. ROBERT K. NABOURS, professor of zoology and experiment station zoologist in the