

- (a) to enlist in active propaganda to impress the community at large and the educational fraternity in particular with the importance of science instruction;
- (b) to discuss and agree upon the aims of science instruction, their relative importance, and proper grade placement;
- (c) to discuss and agree upon the principles of selection of the subject-matter for the curriculum and the placement of this subject-matter in the various levels of the school;
- (d) to stimulate accurate scientific investigations along the above lines and also in the methods of teaching science;
- (e) to devise tests to determine in how far we are succeeding in accomplishing the desired aims of science teaching by the methods in vogue;
- (f) to employ a national secretary for part time at the outset and ultimately for all of his time who would extend the influence of the organization, make it efficient and coordinate the work of individual investigators along the above lines.

ELLIOT R. DOWNING

THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION,
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

BIOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

DURING the past year biological investigations of the distribution and habits of the birds and mammals of the state of Washington have been continued by the Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the State College of Washington, and the State Normal School, Bellingham, Washington. Early in July, 1920, there was begun a biological cross-section of the state, which, when completed, will extend from Bellingham on Puget Sound to the Pend d'Oreille country in the extreme northeastern corner of the state. During the summer season more than 200 miles were traversed by pack train in the northern Cascade Mountains, the party consisting of Professor Wil-

liam T. Shaw, State College of Washington; J. M. Edson, State Normal School, Bellingham, and George G. Cantwell and Dr. Walter P. Taylor, of the Biological Survey, the last named being in general charge of the work. During the fall months Mr. Cantwell continued the cross-section, making studies in the Okanogan Highlands just south of the Canadian boundary between Oroville and Marcus, Washington. Contrasts in the fauna and flora as thus far developed are marked, and indicate that when the work is completed, materials will be available for a significant treatment of an interesting ecologic transect. It is hoped to complete the field work in the state during the present year.

THE PRESERVATION OF NATURAL CONDITIONS

THE Ecological Society of America's Committee on the Preservation of Natural Conditions has been listing and describing areas with original flora and fauna, preserved and desirable for reservation for scientific purposes, and is now just entering on the more extensive field work, with three additional joint chairman added. The plan of work and men in charge are as follows: Professor V. E. Shelford, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill. (senior chairman, research and publication) is continuing preparation of the list which is to serve as a manual on natural areas with sections on the care, management and uses. R. B. Miller, state forester, Urbana, Ill. (chairman, publicity state organization) wishes to enlist the cooperation of one organization interested in science in each state and province. Dr. F. B. Sumner, Scripps Institution, La Jolla, Calif. (chairman, organization of research interests) is working on a union of research interests in natural areas, as represented by scientific societies, museums, and universities, into an organization to provide needed funds. C. F. Korstian, U. S. Forest Service, Ogden, Utah (chairman, Natural Areas in National Forests) is working on the selection of suitable natural areas which may be set aside within the existing national forest. Those having knowledge of areas preserved suitable for preservation, es-

pecially those who have studied special areas, are requested to communicate with V. E. Shelford at once as the list is soon to be completed.

SCIENTIFIC LECTURES AT OTTAWA

MEMBERS of the Department of Mines, Canada, are giving in the auditorium of the Victoria Memorial Museum, Ottawa, lectures as follows:

- March 4: "The building of the continent," by D. B. Dowling, geologist.
 March 11: "The anthropological field in Canada," by Dr. Edward Sapir, anthropologist.
 March 25: "Zoological work in Canada," by R. M. Anderson, zoologist.
 April 8: "A recent chapter in the geological history of Canada" (illustrated with slides of the Greenland Ice Cap), by Edward M. Kindle, paleontologist.
 February 12: "The fur-bearing animals of Canada," by Clyde L. Patch.
 February 19: "The birds of Bonaventure Island" (with motion pictures), by Clyde L. Patch.
 February 26: "The Canadian Arctic coast," by K. G. Chipman.
 March 5: "Wanderings with the Eskimo," by D. Jenness.
 March 12: "Roads to wealth in our northern forest, or mineral development in northern Ontario" (with motion pictures), by T. L. Tanton.
 March 19: "Hunting giant dinosaurs in the Badlands of Alberta," by Charles M. Sternberg.
 March 26: "Ottawa three times submerged and how we know it" (with motion pictures), by M. E. Wilson.
 April 2: "Conquering the desert with irrigation" (with motion pictures), by Harlan I. Smith.
 April 9: "Asbestos or fireproof cotton" (with motion pictures), by R. Harvie.
 April 16: "My summer among the Ojibwa Indians," by F. W. Waugh.
 April 23: "The frogs, salamanders and snakes of Ottawa," by Clyde L. Patch.

THE RESIGNATION OF PROFESSOR FLINT

YALE UNIVERSITY announces the resignation on account of poor health of Dr. Joseph Marshall Flint, professor of surgery since 1907, to take effect at the close of the present university year. Dr. Flint is planning to go to

his home in California after commencement. The following resolutions have been passed by the faculty of the medical school:

The faculty of medicine have learned with deep regret of the resignation of Dr. Joseph Marshall Flint from the chair of surgery, which he has so ably and faithfully filled since 1907.

Coming to this university with a broad and thorough scientific training, and with high ideals, Dr. Flint became the original full-time professor, and has done great service both by precept and by example, in upholding high standards of teaching, research and practise.

He has always shown great tenacity of purpose and devotion to principle. Whatever success the Yale School of Medicine may have in the future will have been made possible by the loyalty and steadfastness of Dr. Flint and Dr. Blumer, whose joint service at a time of great stress succeeded in tiding over the crisis that economic conditions and new developments in medical education had brought on.

The faculty desire to place on record their high appreciation of Dr. Flint's services to the university, to the nation and to science, and to express their keen sense of loss at his leaving. They wish him full and speedy recovery of health and a large measure of success in his future work.

THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF RADIO TELEGRAPHY

AN American Section of the International Union of Scientific Radio Telegraphy has been formed and has adopted a constitution which provides:

1. The American Section of the International Union of Scientific Radio Telegraphy shall consist of an executive committee and of the members of the technical committees provided for in paragraphs 2 and 3 below.

2. The executive committee of the American Section shall consist of the chairmen of the divisions of physical sciences and of engineering of the National Research Council (ex officio); one member each of the following: The Army, the Navy, the Department of Commerce, the Institute of Radio Engineers; four members at large to be appointed by the president of the National Academy of Sciences; and (ex officio) officers of the International Union of Scientific Radio Telegraphy resident in the United States.