The first flight in the Dorr Field region suggested clearly the essential relations between pine flatwoods, palmetto scrub, and prairie. These relations would have developed very slowly from field studies alone, as the forms of various areas were often misleading when viewed from ground level, and significant differences of contour were matters of inches rather than feet. From the air it seemed obvious that a key to the situation lay in the rainy season water levels. The prairies were observed to form a continuous system—the pathway of broad, shallow rainy season drainage lines—the palmetto scrub formed a fringing zone that might be occasionally flooded, while the pine flatwoods marked the true uplands. The truth of these first suggestions was conclusively fixed by subsequent field work and flights in both rainy and dry seasons. Incidentally, combined ground and aerial studies forced serious doubt of the true climax nature of the pine flatwoods, which seemed in a number of places to be suffering invasion by mesophytic dicotyl forest. It was a matter of some interest to learn later that this inference was borne out by unpublished data of two other botanists working on different parts of the peninsula.

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## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE SYSTEMATIZATION OF PLANKTON INVESTIGATIONS

THE following notice has just been received from Professor L. Joubin (Institut Océanographique, 195 Rue Saint-Jacques, Paris) the secretary of the subsection of biological oceanography of the International Union of Biological Sciences, International Research Council.

An international meeting of the delegates of the national sections was held at Paris on January 27, 1921, under the presidency of the Prince of Monaco. At this meeting it was agreed that the study of plankton is not progressing as well as might be desired, because the methods of investigation vary and therefore can not give comparable results. There is need for standardizing the fundamentals of these methods by means of the preparation of a manual which will systematize them while at the same time leaving to each investigator a free hand to perfect and to complete them. These improvements would be taken into consideration in future editions. A circular will be sent to all naturalists (zoologists, botanists, physiologists and chemists) and institutions interested and they will be requested to have it reprinted in the scientific journals and distributed among those interested in oceanography, as well as to solicit opinions, advice, criticism, and observations of any kind. A committee was named to prepare the manual and to bring the plan before the meeting of the subsection of biological oceanography in December, 1921. Specialists who desire to participate in the commission for plankton studies are requested so to inform the secretary. It is requested that all replies, printed matter, data concerning capture, instruments, fabrics, nets, reagents, preservation, and technical methods of all kinds be addressed to the secretary.

AUSTIN H. CLARK

### MADAME CURIE'S VISIT TO AMERICA

(*From a Correspondent*)

MADAME MARIE CURIE, of Paris, the student of radium, will visit this country in May as a guest of the women of America. She will bring with her her two daughters, the elder of whom is also a scientist.

Madame Curie, internationally known for her studies on radium and its application as a remedial agent for cancer, is one of three unusually gifted daughters of a Polish educator. One of her sisters is principal of an important young women's school in Warsaw and the other is director of a large sanatorium in the Galician mountains. Madame Curie went to Paris from Warsaw as a young woman to study in the Sorbonne, and while in Paris married the brilliant physicist and student of radium, Professor Pierre Curie, who met a tragic death by accident in a Paris street in 1906. She is now a teacher in the Sorbonne