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 It was a matter of some interest to learn later that this inference was borne out by unpublished data of two other botanists working on different parts of the peninsula.

PAUL B. SEARS

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

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

and an investigator in the Curie Radium Institute, to the support of which she has devoted the money received by her from the Nobel Prize award, as also the money received from other awards.

While in America Madame Curie will be given honorary degrees by several American universities and a medal by a leading scientific society. In addition a group of women in New York and Washington are trying to raise funds sufficient to purchase and present to her, as a gift from the women of America, a gram of radium for use in her experimental work in the Curie Radium Institute. When asked recently in Paris: "What would you most prefer to have in the world?" Madame Curie promptly replied "A gram of radium under my own control."

She has never possessed such an amount of radium for her independent use, nor can she ever afford from her own means to buy it. She lives on the modest stipend received by her for her teaching and research work in the Sorbonne and does not care for more money except to put it into the equipment and support of her laboratory.

If the beautiful idea of making to Madame Curie, on the occasion of her visit here, the gift of a gram of radium in recognition of her achievements in the interests of science and humanity, can be realized, it will be the most fitting and appreciated tribute that can be paid her.

The radium will cost about $100,000 and contributions, even small sums, are earnestly solicited. If sent to Mrs. Vernon Kellogg, 1701 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, D. C., they will be receipted and properly accounted for.

THE ROCHESTER MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

The spring meeting of the American Chemical Society will be held with the Rochester Section, Tuesday, April 26, to Friday, April 29, inclusive. A large and successful meeting is assured as many thousand members of the society are within a night's journey of Rochester and reduced railroad rates have been secured. A rate of one and one half fare for the round trip journey under the certificate plan has been granted. This is good from all parts of the United States, except New England, and west of Utah, the New England and Transcontinental Association having declined to give rates. The Rochester hotel is the headquarters.

The preliminary program is as follows:

Monday, April 25

4.00 P.M.—Council meeting, Rochester Club.

6.30 P.M.—Dinner to the council at the Rochester Club.

Tuesday, April 26

10.00 A.M.—General meeting, Chamber of Commerce.

Address of welcome, Hiram Edgerton, and W. Roy McCanne, president of the Rochester Chamber of Commerce.

Response, Edgar F. Smith, president of the American Chemical Society.

General addresses, by Senator James W. Wadsworth, Jr., and Congressman Nicholas Longworth.

2.00 P.M.—General meeting, Convention Hall.

Papers, by E. C. Franklin, C. E. K. Mees and others.

6.30 P.M.—College and Fraternity dinners.

Wednesday, April 27

9.00 A.M.—Divisional meetings, Mechanics Institute.

1.30 P.M.—Divisional meetings, Mechanics Institute.

8.00 P.M.—Public address, speaker to be announced.

Thursday, April 28

9.00 A.M.—Divisional meetings, Mechanics Institute.

Sigma Xi Luncheon—Hotel Rochester.

2.00 P.M.—Divisional meetings, Mechanics Institute.

3.00 P.M.—Meeting of chairman and secretaries of local sections.

7.00 P.M.—Good-Fellowship meeting, Bausch and Lomb's Dining Hall.

Friday, April 29

8.30 A.M.—Excursions.