taining rain water that is used for domestic purposes and is the only supply of fresh water that the natives possess.

At the outset the oil interests organized an antimosquito campaign, conducted through a committee headed by Dr. Stubbs. About 600 men were constantly employed in oiling the ponds and other open waters, and also the receptacles in which the natives keep their water for domestic purposes. The use of crude oil on the water required by the natives for drinking and cooking naturally caused much dissatisfaction.

After some months, when an official of the U. S. Public Health Service visited Tampico, he mentioned the value of *Gambusia* in the antimosquito work of the Public Health Service and Bureau of Fisheries, and suggested that this fish might be available for the yellow-fever campaign at Tampico. A search was forthwith made and *Gambusia* was found in abundance in the vicinity. Since December 1 the top minnow has entirely replaced crude oil as an eradicator of mosquito larvæ, the natives are much pleased at the change, and the reduction in the expense has amounted to $3,000 weekly.

## THE NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDEN[1]

FIVE years ago the commission of fine arts was requested to investigate and report as to the possibilities of relocating the existing Botanic Garden, at the foot of the Capitol, from its present restricted area to a more suitable site, and after surveying carefully several suggested sites in the District of Columbia decided upon Mount Hamilton and the land adjacent as the most suitable location for a National Botanic Garden. A year ago at a hearing before the joint congressional committee on the Library the plan was again thoroughly discussed. The highest scientific and botanical authorities in the country attended the hearings, and not only indorsed the site as being in location, area, variety of soil, elevation and accessibilty most adaptable for a National Botanic Garden, but asserted also the great need for such a garden as would be comparable with those of other great countries of the world.

Once the National Botanic Garden has been established and developed, it would be one of the great sightseeing places of Washington, which would be visited by thousands of persons annually. The Zoological park is 3.50 miles and Arlington National Cemetery 4.50 miles from the Capitol, yet each is visited by thousands of persons each week. The daily average attendance at the Zoological Park is 6,108, from 20,000 to 40,000 on Sundays and more than 2,000,000 for the year. The Mount Hamilton site is only two miles northeast of the Capitol, and is accessible by lines of street cars. In addition the National Botanic Garden would be a place where thousands of school children of the city could make a study of plant life and the garden would continually be a place of enjoyment for residents of the city. The Mount Hamilton site is on the main highway between Baltimore and Washington, one of the main approaches of the city. A boulevard would lead through the grounds along which a countless number of persons would travel each year in order to see the garden.

[1] From *The Washington Post*.

## MEDICAL PRIZES

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association announces the following prizes:

The Mörsel Foundation offers a prize of 10,000 marks for the best work on the etiology, diagnosis or treatment of cancer, representing important progress. A second prize of half the amount will be given for the second best work. Competition is open till October 1, 1922. Competing articles are to be sent to the director of the Institute for Experimental Cancer Research at Heidelberg. The competing works must be in German and must have been published between January 1, 1921, and October 1, 1922, or be ready for publication when presented.

The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh announces the Parkin Prize of £100, open to competitors of all nations, for the best essay "On the Effect of Volcanic Action in the Production of Epidemic Diseases in the

Animal and in the Vegetable Creation, and in the production of Hurricanes and Abnormal Atmospheric Vicissitudes." Particulars regarding the conditions of the contest may be secured from the secretary, Dr. J. S. Fowler, Edinburgh.

In honor of Dr. Charles Lester Leonard who died in 1913 a martyr to research with the roentgen ray, the American Roentgen Ray Society offers a $1,000 prize for the best piece of original research in the field of roentgen ray, radium or radioactivity. The competition is open to any one living in the United States, or its possessions, Canada, Mexico, Central and South America and Cuba. The research work must be submitted in writing in the English language not later than July 1. The winner will read his paper at the annual meeting of the society in September. Dr. Henry K. Pancoast of the University Hospital is a member of the committee in charge of the competition.

### THE COMMITTEE ON PHYSIOLOGICAL OPTICS OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

Under the auspices of the Division of Physical Sciences of the National Research Council, there has recently been formed a Committee on Physiological Optics consisting of

Professor Adelbert Ames, Dartmouth College,
Professor W. T. Bovie, Harvard University,
Dr. P. W. Cobb, Nela Research Laboratory,
Mr. L. A. Jones, Eastman Kodak Company,
Dr. W. B. Lancaster, Boston,
Dr. P. G. Nutting, Pittsburgh,
Dr. I. G. Priest, Bureau of Standards,
Professor J. P. C. Southall, Columbia University,
Dr. L. T. Troland, Emerson Hall, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.,
Professor F. K. Richtmyer, Cornell University, Chairman.

This committee recently held a meeting in New York for the purpose of organization and discussion of the problems before it. The diversity of present theories of vision was thought to be due in large part to the circumstance that the workers in the sciences contributory to visual phenomena, such as physics, physiology and psychology, seldom, if ever, get together to talk over problems of mutual interest and to get each other's viewpoint.

To facilitate an interchange of ideas among the various groups of workers, the committee voted to request the Optical Society of America to form a Section on Vision. Such a section has been authorized by the society and the first meeting will be held in Rochester in October, 1921. It is hoped that all those interested in the pure or applied science of vision, such as physicists, physiologists, psychologists, ophthalmologists, photochemists, illuminating engineers, etc., will join the new section and will take an active part in its work.

The committee will also immediately make a survey of present research in progress. Later will be issued a report on the present status of physiological optics with some outstanding problems for research.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

At the annual dinner of the National Academy of Sciences on April 26, the following medals were presented: To Dr. Charles D. Walcott, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and president of the Academy, the first award of the Mary Clark Thompson Medal for distinguished achievement in geology and paleontology. To Albert I., Prince of Monaco, the Alexander Agassiz Gold Medal for contributions to the science of oceanography; to Dr. P. Zeeman, of Amsterdam, Holland, the Henry Draper Gold Medal for eminence in investigations in astronomical physics; to Rear Admiral C. D. Sigsbee, U. S. N., retired, the Agassiz Gold Medal, the same as the medal to the Prince but awarded one year later, for eminence in investigations in oceanography; to Dr. Robert Ridgway, the Daniel Giraud Elliot Gold Medal for his studies of the birds of North America, and especially in recognition of Part 8 of his "Birds of North and Middle America"; to Dr. C. W. Stiles, the Gold Medal for eminence in the application of science to the public welfare, in recognition of his work on the hook worm disease.