permanence should be given the project before its formal undertaking.

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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE INCREASING USE OF UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY MAPS

The project of covering the 3,000,000 square miles of the United States with accurate topographic surveys was definitely adopted by the federal government in 1882. The project was large, and the work is even now less than half completed. The standards of accuracy and refinement in topographic surveying have been constantly raised by the topographic engineers of the United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, with the view of meeting adequately every use to which the maps can be put. The law provides for the sale of the maps made by the Geological Survey at the cost of printing, a charge that must be considered merely nominal when it is realized that the cost of an edition of a printed map may be only a small percentage of the cost of surveying the area it represents.

The government itself is making a large and increasing use of these topographic maps, but the expenditure of public funds for these surveys is otherwise fully warranted only as the public uses the maps. To promote this use, the Geological Survey has recently given more attention to the wider distribution of the maps.

The distribution of a government map depends largely upon publicity, though the necessity of adopting commercial business methods in handling orders for the maps when a demand is created must not be overlooked. To inform the public of the existence of authoritative maps published by the federal government a special effort is now being made to reach the communities in every area that is covered by a map, and to this end every map as issued is brought to the attention of the local and state press.

Other methods of promoting wider distribution involve the cooperation of boy-scout masters, schoolboys, and hotel managers, as well as of a large number of bookstores as local agents. Helpful publicity has also been gained through the voluntary cooperation of the press. The printing in a single publication of a brief statement regarding the Geological Survey's maps often results in orders for a hundred or more maps and many inquiries for the State index maps, which are sent free, showing the areas already mapped.

The periods of maximum demand for these government maps are the beginning of the vacation period and the beginning of the school year.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY CONVERSAZIONE[1]

The annual conversazione of the Royal Society was held at Burlington House on May 11, and was so well attended that it was practically impossible to see a tenth part of the exhibits and demonstrations. Fortunately arrangements are always made for an earlier press view of the latter. This year amongst the thirty-nine demonstrations figuring in the catalogue there was none having any direct bearing on medical science, though the exhibition contained much of great general interest. Mr. L. T. Hogben, of the Imperial College of Science, demonstrated the effects on tadpoles of feeding them with pineal gland. Hitherto there has been no proof of any physiological function exercised by the pineal body, but Mr. Hogben has succeeded in showing, in tadpoles at least, that it has some controlling power over the pigment cells. Macroscopic and microscopic preparations showed that in the pineal-fed tadpoles there is a very evident contraction of the melanophores, an effect that is not produced by feeding experiments with any other endocrine organ. Mr. C. Tate Regan, F.R.S., gave a demonstration of part of the life-history of the common eel, founded on the researches of Dr. J. Schmidt, who showed that the freshwater eel of Europe breeds in the Atlantic, southeast of Bermuda. A series of larvæ, from the middle and western North Atlantic, with long and slender pointed

[1] From *The British Medical Journal.*

teeth, were exhibited, together with a photograph of the metamorphosis into the elver. The accompanying models illustrated the changes from the yellow eel with its thick lips, small eye, and compact pectoral fin, into the thin-lipped, large-eyed silver eel with pointed pectoral fin, the latter form of eel being that which migrates to the ocean to become mature. Dr. John Rennie demonstrated the mite, now named *Tarsonemus woodi*, which has been claimed by Bruce White to be the causal agent of Isle of Wight disease in bees. White showed that the mites perforate the tracheæ, and by their numbers obstruct the spiracles and thus deprive the bees of the power of flight. Mr. J. E. Barnard gave a demonstration of the microscopic appearances of sections by ultra-violet light. Certain structures, owing to their differences in chemical composition, give different fluorescent tints, and the images obtained are often dissimilar to those obtained by ordinary staining methods. The light filter used was a glass made by Chance, which is transparent to the ultra-violet radiations, and the quartz substage condenser was of the "dark-ground" type. A most interesting and instructive astronomical model designed for educational purposes was exhibited by Dr. William Wilson. This model, which has received great praise from leading astronomers and teachers, not only demonstrates the more familiar motions of the sun, earth, and moon, and the various phenomena resulting therefrom, but is capable of simple analyses of each particular motion. The apparatus is most ingenious.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. GEORGE E. DE SCHWEINITZ, professor of ophthalmology at the University of Pennsylvania, was elected president of the American Medical Association at the meeting held last week in Boston. Other officers were elected as follows: Frank B. Wynn, of Indianapolis, vice-president; Dr. Alexander R. Craig, of Chicago, and Dr. William Allen Pusey, of Chicago, were reelected secretary and treasurer, respectively.

AT the recent commencement of New York University, the degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred on Dr. George David Stewart, professor of surgery at the university.

THE honorary degree of Doctor of Science was conferred upon C. L. Marlatt, assistant chief of the Federal Bureau of Entomology, and chairman of the Federal Horticultural Board, by the Kansas State Agricultural College at its fifty-eighth commencement on June 2, "in recognition of his contributions to our knowledge of insects and his efficient services in initiating the policies and directing the work of the Federal Horticultural Board."

THE degree of doctor of engineering will be conferred by the Stevens Institute of Technology on Dr. Sven Wingquist, the Swedish engineer, who comes to the United States by invitation of the institute on the occasion of the celebration of its fiftieth anniversary.

DR. WM. CURTIS FARABEE, president of the American Anthropological Association, has been elected a corresponding member of the National Academy of History, Ecuador.

THE Adams prize of the University of Cambridge has been awarded to Dr. W. M. Hicks, St. John's College.

THE friends and former students of Professor A. Swaen are planning to place a tablet in his honor in the Institute of Anatomy at the University of Liége where he has taught for thirty years.

DR. T. W. FULTON, scientific superintendent of the Fishery Board for Scotland, has retired after a service of thirty-four years.

MR. BRADLEY STOUGHTON has resigned the secretaryship of the American Institute of Mining Engineers, which he has held since 1913. Mr. Stoughton's resignation is in accordance with his personal belief that the office of secretary of the institute should not be permanent, since too long a tenure of office is likely to create relations that can not be terminated agreeably. During Mr. Stoughton's tenure the membership of the institute has increased from 3,500 to over 9,000.