

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE HIGH ALTITUDE EXPEDITION TO PERU

As has been already noted in *SCIENCE*, the Royal Society High Altitude Expedition to Peru sailed in the third week of November on the *Santa Teresa*. The expedition proposes to study the adaptation of man to life at or above the altitude of 14,000 ft. As compared with other localities in which this type of work has been carried out, Peru possesses certain advantages: (1) Being near the equator, the effects of altitude are less complicated by those of cold than in higher latitudes. (2) The Central Railway of Peru, the highest standard-gauge railway in the world, ascends the Andes to an altitude of 15,885 ft. (3) A mining population lives and works in localities situated above 14,000 and 16,000 ft., or even higher. It is alleged, for example, that the porters at the town of Cerro de Pasco, in the Andes, raise the ores 600 ft. from the mines by carrying loads of 160 lb. of mineral many times in the day. There is probably no other population which carries on such heavy work in so rare an atmosphere. Experimental methods for the study of the circulatory and respiratory systems have advanced so much within the last ten or twenty years that the time seems ripe for their application to the extraordinarily interesting problems which life at high altitudes presents. Donations towards the expenses of the expedition have been received from the following: The Royal Society, the Harvard Medical School, the Carnegie Fund, the Moray Fund, the University of Toronto, the Rockefeller Institute, the Presbyterian Hospital, New York, Sir Peter Mackie, and Sir Robert Hadfield.

Members of the party are Alfred C. Redfield, assistant professor of physiology at the Harvard Medical School; Arlie V. Bock, M.D., of the Massachusetts General Hospital; Henry S. Forbes, M.D., now engaged in research work in industrial medicine at Harvard University; C. A. L. Binger, of the Rockefeller Institute, New York; and George A. Harrop, of the Presbyterian Hospital, New York. The expedition was organized

by Joseph Bancroft of Cambridge University, England; he is accompanied also by Professor J. G. Meakins, of Edinburgh University, and Dr. Doggart of King's College, Cambridge, England. They carry with them an X-ray machine and a large amount of other medical apparatus.

After completing the studies at Cerro de Pasco, the investigators expect to spend a short time at Ticleo, on the watershed of the Andes. Ticleo, nearly 16,000 feet high, is the highest standard-gauge railroad station in the world. They will return by February first, and later in the year Mr. Bancroft will give a series of lectures at the Lowell Institute in Boston.

THE JOSEPH HENRY FUND OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

IN the year 1878 a tripartite agreement was made between (1) Certain citizens of Philadelphia, (2) A Pennsylvania Insurance and Annuity Company and (3) the National Academy of Sciences, by the terms of which a fund of \$40,000 face value was placed in trust with the Company, the income from which was to be paid to Professor Joseph Henry during his life and after his death to his wife and three daughters and after the death of the last survivor of these four, it was provided that the same gross sum shall be transferred to the National Academy of Sciences to be forever held in trust and the income from which shall be from time to time applied to assist "meritorious investigations in natural science especially in the direction of original research."

By the death on November 10, 1920, of the last survivor of the original beneficiaries, the capital sum passes, as of that date, into the hands of the National Academy of Sciences for purposes as indicated.

At the recent fall meeting of the Academy in Chicago, the following statement of policy of administration, submitted by the special Committee on this fund, was approved by the Academy:

Under the terms of the trust deed there is im-