

of Michigan, has reached Manila after six weeks spent in examining the Bonin, Marianne and Caroline Islands in the western Pacific Ocean. Until he reached Yap on September 11, he was traveling as the guest of the Japanese Navy Department. At Yap the U. S. gunboat *Bittern* was placed at his disposal and the Pelews and scattered islands to the southwest were visited. He sailed on the *Bittern* on October 3 for a 4000-mile cruise along the great Sumatra mountain arc and through the Nicobar and Andaman islands to Rangoon, Burma. He will then proceed to Europe to lecture at the Universities of Delft and Utrecht, during the spring semester.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association states that the University of Colorado is waging an active campaign to raise the remaining \$200,000 necessary to insure the erection of the new medical school and state hospital. Toward the \$1,500,000 which the project will cost, the General Education Board has pledged \$700,000 and the state has appropriated \$600,000, both sums contingent upon the raising of the \$200,000 balance by the university. An effort will be made to obtain one dollar from each of 200,000 citizens of Colorado.

DR. ELIHU THOMSON, chief consulting engineer of the General Electric Company, has again been appointed acting president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a post which he filled after the death of Dr. Richard C. Maclaurin in January, 1920, and will continue until a successor to President Nichols is named. The educational affairs of the institute will continue to be directed by a faculty administrative committee consisting of Professor Henry P. Talbot, head of the department of chemistry and acting dean; Professor Edward F. Miller, head of the department of mechanical engineering and chairman of the faculty, and Professor Edwin B. Wilson, head of the department of physics.

ELIOT BLACKWELDER, A.B., Ph.D. (Chicago),

will become professor of geology at Stanford University next year, succeeding Dr. Bailey Willis, who will retire in accordance with the provision by which professors of Stanford become emeritus at the age of sixty-five. Professor Blackwelder is now lecturing at Harvard, filling the place of Professor Daly, who is absent on leave in South Africa.

E. H. WELLS, who has conducted special geological investigations for the Chino Copper Company, has been elected president of the New Mexico State School of Mines at Socorro.

DR. E. EUGENE BARKER, formerly assistant professor of plant breeding in Cornell University and more recently of the Insular Government Service, Las Piedras, Porto Rico, has become associate professor of botany, with particular reference to genetics, in the University of Georgia.

C. W. WATSON, a graduate of the Yale Forest School in 1920, has been called to the School of Forestry, University of Idaho, as instructor in forestry. Mr. Watson spent the past year in study abroad under a traveling fellowship in forestry granted by the American-Scandinavian Foundation.

MR. STANLEY WYATT, investigator to the Industrial Fatigue Research Board in England, has been appointed lecturer in psychology at the University of Manchester.

COL. SIR GERALD LENOX-CONYNGHAM, F.R.S., has been appointed fellow and prelector in geodesy at Trinity College, Cambridge.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF HELMHOLTZ'S "OPTIK"

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Many readers of SCIENCE will be glad to know that the council of the Optical Society has appointed a committee to make arrangements for bringing out an English translation of Helmholtz's great work on physiological optics.

The first edition of the "*Handbuch der physiologischen Optik*" was published in 1866, more than half a century ago; and the fact that this epoch-making work, which remains to-day the most original treatise on physiolog-

ical optics, has never been translated into English, is a reproach to both Great Britain and America. To make its valuable contents accessible to those who do not find it easy or convenient to read a foreign language will be conferring a boon on many scientific investigators in the vast and expanding territory which this book was originally intended to cover.

Incidentally, the proposed English edition will be a memorial of the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Hermann von Helmholtz, whose influence on modern scientific thought in nearly every direction has perhaps been as widespread and permanent as that of any of his great contemporaries in the nineteenth century.

It is estimated that the cost of translating, editing, and publishing this memorial volume (or volumes) will be \$5,000 or more. It is particularly desired that every individual who is interested in the success of this project and in the advancement of the science of light and vision in this country will have an opportunity of contributing towards it.

Contributions, no matter how small, may be sent to Adolph Lomb, Esq., treasurer of the Optical Society of America, care of Bausch & Lomb Optical Company, Rochester, New York. Make cheques payable to "Adolph Lomb, Treasurer."

Any one subscribing as much as \$15 will receive a copy of the complete work when it is issued.

JAMES P. C. SOUTHALL,
*President, Optical
Society of America*

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS,
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY,
November 28, 1921

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NATURALISTS

THE thirty-ninth meeting of the American Society of Naturalists, as has been noted in *SCIENCE*, is to be held in Toronto on December 29 and 30, with two symposiums of unusual interest—one on genetics and variation, by the zoologists, the other on orthogenesis, in which Henderson, Osborn, Bateson and others will take part.

It is interesting to recall that for the first

three years the society was under a paleontologist, Alfred Hyatt; for the two succeeding years under a zoologist, Grove K. Gilbert; then for two years under a comparative anatomist, Harrison Allen. Then in turn the society was presided over by the botanist Goodale, the physiologist Martin, the geologist Rice, the paleontologist Osborn, and a succession of paleontologists and zoologists until 1902, when the psychologist Cattell presided, since which time it has been chiefly under the guidance of zoologists.

The keynote to the success of the Society of Naturalists was the discovery that a more representative body of scientific men can be assembled at a winter meeting than at a summer session. This society has proved to be the mother of societies, because from its broad original organization have gone forth the six national American societies of Geology, Anatomy, Physiology, Botany, Zoology, and Paleontology, all holding winter meetings in various parts of the United States, from the eastern seaboard to Chicago. The zoologists alone cling to the mother Society of Naturalists and hold their meetings in the same time and place.

Of the founders of the Naturalists in the year 1883 there now survive the following: Libbey, Osborn, Scott, Rice and Clarke, the latter, Professor Samuel F. Clarke of Williamstown, being one of the first to answer the call.

HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN

THE PROGRAM OF THE SECTION OF BOTANY FOR THE TORONTO MEETING

ARRANGEMENTS have been completed to hold the Section G program on Wednesday afternoon, December 28. Since this program will be of interest to others than the members of this Section the speakers are given below.

Address of the Retiring Vice-President, Dr. Rodney H. True, "The physiological significance of calcium for higher green plants."

Symposium on "The Species Concept"

From the viewpoint of the systematist: Dr. Charles F. Millsbaugh.

From the viewpoint of a geneticist: Dr. George H. Shull.