

The income from this fund is to be entirely devoted to variable star research, none of it being required for "overhead" or for equipment. Through an arrangement with Professor Pickering's successor, Dr. Harlow Shapley, Harvard College Observatory is to put the second floor of its library building at the disposal of the A. A. V. S. O. for its offices, and is to allow the use of one of the domes on the observatory grounds to house the largest telescope owned by the association, that recently acquired through the generous gift of Mrs. C. A. Post of Bayport, L. I.

Professor Pickering was so well known to members of the A. A. A. S. and to readers of SCIENCE that it is felt that many will wish to contribute to such a worthy cause as the Edward C. Pickering Memorial. Contributions should be sent to Wm. Tyler Olcott, Norwich, Conn., or to Leon Campbell, Harvard College Observatory, Cambridge, Mass.

S. A. MITCHELL

### J. D. MITCHELL

MR. J. D. MITCHELL died at Victoria, Texas, on February 27, 1922.

Some years ago when the writer was about to go to Texas for the first time, he made the rounds of a number of scientific offices at Washington to obtain such information as he could about the natural history of Texas. Wherever he went, whether to entomologists, ornithologists, ichthyologists or botanists, the same advice was given. That was to go to Victoria and see Mr. J. D. Mitchell. A man whose knowledge had made such a deep impression upon the leaders in several departments of science must certainly have been in some degree remarkable.

At Mr. Mitchell's house in Victoria he had large collections of animals of all classes. From day to day the house was visited by ranchmen, doctors, school children and others to ask about various points connected with natural history. Thus, technical men as well as persons from the ordinary walks of life were alike influenced by the learning of the man.

Mr. Mitchell lived for a good portion of his life on a cattle ranch on the coast of

Texas. His love of natural history was inherited from his mother, who had extensive knowledge of the plants of Texas and their practical uses. Later he moved to Victoria where circumstances gave him an opportunity to devote most of his time to work on natural history. In 1904 he became connected with the Bureau of Entomology and made important contributions to several of the larger southern problems like those of the cotton boll weevil and the cattle tick. In fact, his pioneer work on the cattle tick was an important factor in the notable project of eradication which has now permanently removed the pest from more than three fourths of its original range in the United States.

Mr. Mitchell had no technical training. He was an example of the vanishing type of devoted naturalists who pursue the subject out of pure love for nature. He never described a new species. Although he collaborated on many publications of the Bureau of Entomology, he published only one paper, dealing with the poisonous snakes of Texas. Nevertheless, it is fitting that this note about his career should be published in this journal. He was a fountain of accurate information for technical men and was a modest, patient and painstaking imparter of knowledge. His life showed the enjoyment which comes from the contact with nature and was thus an inspiration to others.

W. D. HUNTER

HOUSTON, TEXAS

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### ANNUAL TABLES OF CONSTANTS

THE confederation of French scientific societies has renewed for the year 1922 its contribution of 40,000 francs in support of Annual Tables. The total subscription in France to this project during the year 1921 was 80,000 francs.

At the approaching meeting of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry which is to be held at Lyons in June, the matter of organizing the work of Annual Tables upon a solid financial basis will come up for consideration. This important international project has had a very precarious existence

since 1914 and the fact that the work has been continued at all has been due to the efforts of the general secretary, Dr. Charles Marie.

Plans for providing a certain and sufficient budget for the work during the next five years are in preparation, based upon definite annual contributions from the various countries in the International Union.

It is announced that the National Research Council of Japan has appointed the following advisory committee for Annual Tables: Yasuhiko Asahina, Eiji Aoyagi, Kotaro Honda, Katsuji Inouye, Gen-itsu Kita, Koichi Matsubara, Tsuruzo Matsumura, Seiji Nakamura, Kyoji Suyehiro, Umetaro Suzuki, Takuro Tamamaru, Mitsumaru Tsujimoto, Nobuji Yamaga, Noboru Yamaguti. The chairman of the committee is Professor Yukichi Osaka, Japanese member of the International Commission in charge of Annual Tables.

#### ALASKA PENINSULA FISHERIES RESERVATION

UNDER date of February 17, 1922, an Executive order was promulgated creating the Alaska Peninsula Fisheries Reservation, extending eastward from the Aleutian Islands Reservation to a line from Foggy Cape, on the eastern end of Sutwik Island, to Cape Menshikof, on the northern shore of the Alaska Peninsula, and including the Shumagin Islands and the territorial waters adjacent to these lands and also the lands of the Aleutian Islands Reservation. The Secretary of Commerce is given power to make regulations for the proper administration of the newly created reservation and the waters covered by the executive order. The text of the order follows:

##### EXECUTIVE ORDER

In addition to the islands of the Aleutian Chain, Alaska, withdrawn and made a preserve and breeding ground for native birds, for the propagation of reindeer and fur-bearing animals, and for the encouragement and development of fisheries, by the executive order of March 3, 1913 (No. 1733), as modified by the executive order of August 11, 1916 (No. 2442), a reservation comprising the islands, peninsulas, and lands adjoining the eastern end of the reservation established by the said executive order of March 3,

1913, and extending in an easterly and northerly direction from Isanotski Strait to a line extending from low-water mark at Foggy Cape, on the eastern end of Sutwik Island, to low-water mark at Cape Menshikof, on the northern shore of the Alaska Peninsula, including the Shumagin Islands and all other islands, peninsulas, or parts thereof within the described area, is hereby set apart as a preserve to more effectively insure the protection of the fisheries and for their encouragement and development. This latter reservation is to be known as the Alaska Peninsula Fisheries Reservation.

It is hereby further ordered that all straits, bays, and other waters over which the United States has jurisdiction by reason of their relation and proximity to the islands, peninsulas, and other lands to which this order, as well as the said order of March 3, 1913, applies, be and the same are hereby reserved and set apart also as a preserve to more effectively insure the protection of the fisheries and for their encouragement and development.

The secretary of commerce shall have power to make regulations for the proper administration of the said Alaska Peninsula Fisheries Reservation, and the straits, bays, and other waters reserved by this executive order.

The establishment of the reservation under this executive order shall not interfere with the use of the waters, islands, or other lands for lighthouse, military, naval, or other public purposes, nor with the use of any of said islands or other lands under the laws of the United States for town-site purposes, mining purposes, or grazing of animals thereupon, under rules and regulations to be established by the secretary of the interior.

(Signed) WARREN G. HARDING

The White House, February 17, 1922.

A hearing was called for April 4 at the bureau's office in Seattle, when statements were received from those interested and information secured as a basis for regulations for the control of fishing in the Alaska Peninsula Fisheries Reservation.

#### THE FLORA OF PORTO RICO

DR. N. L. BRITTON, director in chief of the New York Botanical Garden, has returned from Porto Rico, after three months spent in an intensive study of the Porto Rican flora. Dr. Britton reports a very successful trip and the