

collection of some 4,000 specimens. In addition to collecting plants and specimens for the garden, the object of the expedition was the obtaining of data for a flora of Porto Rico and the adjacent islands for publication by the New York Academy of Sciences, as parts of the scientific survey of Porto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

This survey was commenced in 1913 by the New York Academy of Sciences in cooperation with the insular Government of Porto Rico, the American Museum of Natural History, the New York Botanical Garden, the department of geology and of anthropology of Columbia University and with other American institutions. The work has been prosecuted since whenever practicable, but was much interrupted by the World War. In his report to the scientific directors of the garden, Dr. Britton says of the accomplishments to date in connection with the survey:

The materials brought together already have formed the basis of numerous noteworthy contributions to knowledge, published by learned societies and by the cooperating institutions. Publication of the final reports was begun by the Academy in 1919, and three parts of the geological volumes and two of paleontology have now been issued, under the editorship of Professor R. W. Tower of the American Museum of Natural History. Additional parts of the geological volumes are now ready for the press, to be followed by those dealing with the botany and vegetable resources, the zoology, archeology and anthropology of the islands, as rapidly as funds for printing become available. The completion of the work will make the geology and natural history of Porto Rico and the Virgin Islands, insular possessions of the United States, the key to natural science knowledge of the West Indies.

The objects of the trip as detailed by Dr. Britton on his return were to supplement information about the vegetation obtained during several previous visits to the region and from the study of many specimens obtained by other collectors in former years; to ascertain now that the geological field work in Porto Rico has been completed, such distribution of species as may be governed by soils of different mineral composition, and to increase the representation of

Porto Rican plants in the collections of the garden, with duplicates for exchange with other botanical institutions. These objects were satisfactorily accomplished, he says, over considerable areas of the island, special attention being given to the Northern and Southern Coastal Plains and to the higher mountain summits of the central districts.

EXPEDITION TO THE FIJI ISLANDS

A British government launch may be placed at the disposal of a party of scientific men from the University of Iowa who will be in the Fiji Islands on a collecting expedition during June according to a letter to Professor C. C. Nutting from Mr. T. E. Fell, acting governor of Fiji. Professor Nutting is head of the expedition which will sail from Vancouver on May 19 to the Fijis and New Zealand to gather laboratory and museum material for the university. Members of the party are: Professor R. B. Wylie, head of the department of botany; Professor A. O. Thomas, geologist; Professor Dayton Stoner, entomologist and ornithologist; Mrs. Dayton Stoner, who will assist in entomology; Waldo S. Glock, photographer and assistant geologist; and Professor C. C. Nutting, director of the expedition, whose specialty is marine invertebrates.

Arriving at Suva, Fiji Islands, about June 3, the party will be personally greeted by Governor Fell, who, as acting governor of Barbados at the time of the university's Barbados-Antigua expedition in 1918, extended many courtesies to the members of that party, which was also in charge of Professor Nutting.

The entire island of Makaluva, near Suva, has been placed at the disposal of the visitors, and the necessary buildings and equipment are conveniently at hand there. In addition to the launch the governor expresses his hope of having a small boat at hand for use in exploring the neighboring reefs, and arrangements are being made in advance for divers and reef experts to aid the party. All scientific equipment is to be admitted free of duty.

After remaining at Suva until early in July to make a study of Marine and tropical life, the

party will go to New Zealand, where animal and plant life and geological formations are of peculiar interest. The official secretary of New Zealand has written to say that everything possible will be done to make their stay in that country a success. It is expected that the return voyage will end in Vancouver about September 9 in time for the opening of the university.

THE SECTION OF MEDICAL SCIENCES OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

It may be of some interest, in this period of co-ordination, to know that at the Toronto meeting a group of parasitologists, medical entomologists and medical workers met and decided upon the following policy for Section N, Medical Sciences:

1. That it was extremely desirable and necessary that a closer co-ordination between parasitologists, entomologists and medical workers be worked out.

2. That the secretary of Section N (Medical Science), after consultation with the secretaries of the related societies, arrange for a program which will avoid conflicts with related groups.

3. That the secretaries of the allied societies, co-operating with the secretary of Section N (Medical Sciences), suggest those of its members who might be invited to take part in a symposium at which the significant researches are reported that are of interest to the allied groups of workers.

4. It was deemed undesirable to attempt for the present any formal co-operation between these related societies.

5. That the time has come when there is a definite need for the discussion of such papers as affect the interests in the allied groups, both for stimulation and for information.

6. That each secretary so arrange the papers of its society's program that it may be possible for its members to meet with Section N (Medical Sciences) without too serious a loss.

7. That the joint meeting be held under the auspices of Section N (Medical Sciences).

Section N (Medical Sciences) is proceeding

with this policy on the assumption that such arrangements will in no way conflict with any program that may be adopted at the Washington conference, held under the auspices of the National Research Council.

A. J. GOLDFARB,
Secretary.

THE BOCHER MEMORIAL PRIZE OF THE AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

THE American Mathematical Society announces the foundation of a prize in memory of the late Professor Maxime Bôcher, of Harvard University. Soon after the death of Professor Bôcher, in 1918, a fund was raised in his memory through the efforts of Professor T. S. Fiske, of Columbia University, which was turned over to the American Mathematical Society. On recommendation of a committee of which Professor E. B. Van Vleck, of the University of Wisconsin, was chairman, the council of the society has decided to devote the interest of this fund to the establishment of a prize, to be called the Bôcher Memorial Prize, and to be awarded at five year intervals, for a notable research memoir published in the *Transactions of the American Mathematical Society* during the preceding five years by a resident of the United States or Canada. The age of the recipient shall not be over forty years, and the prize shall not be awarded twice to the same person. The first award (of \$100) is to be made for a memoir published during the period 1918-1922, and will be conferred at some meeting of the society in 1923.

This prize, which is believed to be the first mathematical prize to be given in this country at regular intervals for research in pure mathematics, is an especially appropriate memorial for Professor Bôcher, not only because of his achievements in research, but also because of his great services to mathematics in this country as one of the founders and for many years one of the editors of the *Transactions of the American Mathematical Society*; for this latter reason the provision that the prize must be awarded for a memoir published in the *Transactions* seems particularly appropriate.