

Lord Crawford last year, has already added to the amenities of London. Early this spring small enclosures in Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens were prepared by suitable fencing, a small amount of planting, and exclusion of tidying gardeners. The birds accepted the hospitality; no fewer than twenty species, including willow wrens, great and blue tits, red-breasts and lesser whitethroats, spotted flycatchers, carrion crows, tawny owls, pheasants and moorhen nested there this year. According to a report just issued by the committee, it is proposed to extend these successful experiments. In Hyde Park the bank near the frame-house and an enclosure beside the magazine are to be allowed to grow wild, and some planting of suitable shrubs is to be carried out. The area on the east side of the Long Water in Kensington Gardens and a smaller enclosure on the west side are to be sanctuaries. The Duck Island in St. James's Park, two or three sites in Buckingham Palace Gardens, by consent of His Majesty, the islands in the lake in Regent's Park, the wilderness in Greenwich Park, and the Isabella Plantation in Richmond Park are all to be prepared and reserved. These admirable sanctuaries, due to the initiation of Mr. Harold Russell, a well-known London ornithologist, cost little, give pleasure to many, and will not incommode a single human being. They are not to incommode even the London cats, for the committee, after consultation with the Office of Works, decided that there was no practical cat-proof fence. But war is declared against the grey squirrels, absolute to extermination in Richmond Park, and intermittent in Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens. Public sentiment will be on the side of these pleasant rogues. The charge against them, of being habitual robbers of nests, is not proven, but, were it so, there are fences in the London Zoo which retained them, and which, therefore, could exclude them from the sanctuaries. Their charm persists through the year, and is, indeed, even greater in the bleak months when the migrant birds have left their sanctuaries bare. But perhaps they will succeed in defeating even Lord Crawford's competent committee.

THE AMERICAN ELECTROCHEMICAL SOCIETY

THE forty-third semi-annual meeting of the American Electrochemical Society will be held in New York City, at the Hotel Commodore, on May 3, 4 and 5, 1923. The principal attractions of the technical program will be a whole day session on the general topic: "The Production and Application of the Rarer Metals." The arrangements for this session are in charge of Dr. F. M. Becket, of the Electrometallurgical Corporation, New York City. There will be papers on vanadium, tungsten, cobalt, molybdenum, zirconium, cerium, uranium, tantalum, calcium, magnesium and others.

Among the speakers will be:

H. N. McCoy, president of the Carnotite Reduction Company, of Chicago.

H. W. Gillett, of the Bureau of Mines, Ithaca, N. Y.

B. D. Saklatwalla, of the Vanadium Corporation.

F. E. Carter, of the Baker Platinum Works, Newark, N. J. (paper on platinum).

H. S. Cooper (paper on zirconium metal).

J. A. Holladay, of the Electrometallurgical Corporation (paper on analyses).

M. A. Hunter, of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N. Y. (two papers; one on Ti).

Mr. Clancy (paper on alloys as catalyzers)

Mr. Cutter, of the Climax Molybdenum Company.

Russel Lowe, Barro Metal Corporation (paper on barro metal).

Colin G. Fink, secretary of the society (paper on tungsten).

C. E. Minor, Aravaipo Leasing Company, Klondyke, Graham County, Arizona.

W. R. Whitney, director of research laboratories, General Electric Company, Schenectady, N. Y.

Another session will be devoted to a discussion of "Electrode potentials," headed by Dr. Wm. G. Horsh, of the Chile Exploration Company, New York. The papers will cover studies on:

- (a) Reversible electromotive force.
- (b) Overvoltage.
- (c) Ion activities and dissociations.
- (d) Electro-titration.
- (e) p_H determinations.

The headquarters of the society are at Columbia University, New York City.

PROFESSOR MAX WEBER

THERE is printed in *Nature* the following letter addressed on December 5 to Professor Max Weber, of Amsterdam:

You celebrate your seventieth birthday to-day, and we, who are your colleagues and are but a few of your many friends in England, join together to congratulate you and to wish you many years to come of work and happiness. By your long life of teaching and research, by your leadership of the *Siboga* Expedition, by your great handbook of the Mammalia, and by innumerable other important publications, you have come to be the acknowledged leader of zoology in the Netherlands and to be recognized far and wide as one of the most distinguished naturalists of our time. Your solid learning has upheld the great scientific traditions of your country, your investigations have influenced and stimulated many of us, your broad interests, your singleness of purpose, the simplicity of your life, and your genius for friendship have set an example to us all.

The letter is signed by the following leading British naturalists:

A. Alcock, E. J. Allen, Chas. W. Andrews, J. H. Ashworth, W. Bateson, Gilbert C. Bourne, W. T. Calman, Geo. H. Carpenter, Wm. J. Dakin, Arthur Dendy, J. C. Ewart, F. W. Gamble, J. Stanley Gardiner, Walter Garstang, James F. Gemmill, Sidney F. Harmer, J. R. Henderson, W. A. Herdman, Sidney J. Hickson, Jas. P. Hill, Wm. Evans Hoyle, J. Graham Kerr, E. W. MacBride, W. C. McIntosh, Doris L. Mackinnon, P. Chalmers Mitchell, C. Lloyd Morgan, Edward B. Poulton, R. C. Punnett, C. Tate Regan, G. Elliot Smith, Oldfield Thomas, D'Arcy W. Thompson, D. M. S. Watson, A. Smith Woodward.

OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

DR. EDWARD C. FRANKLIN, professor of organic chemistry of Leland Stanford Junior University, has been elected, as already announced, president of the American Chemical Society, succeeding Dr. Edgar F. Smith, formerly provost of the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Wilder D. Bancroft, of Cornell University, was reelected a director of the society and

William Hoskns, consulting chemist, of Chicago, was made a new director of the society. The following councilors-at-large for the period from 1923 to 1925 also were elected: Drs. Roger Adams, University of Illinois; G. N. Lewis, University of California; Ralph H. McKee, Columbia University, and William McPherson, the Ohio State University.

Dr. Franklin was born at Geary City, Kansas, in 1862. He was graduated from the University of Kansas in 1888 and received his master's degree in 1890. He was a student at the University of Berlin in 1890-91; he received the degree of doctor of philosophy at Johns Hopkins University in 1894. He was a member of the advisory board of the U. S. Bureau of Mines in 1917-18; physical chemist of the U. S. Bureau of Standards and consulting chemist of the Ordnance Bureau of the Army during the war. Dr. Franklin's work on liquid ammonia as an electrolytic solvent is familiar to all chemists. In addition to his university work, he also was in industrial work for a number of years, serving in the sugar industry and also in the gold mining industry. In the latter work he was stationed at Miramar, Costa Rica, in 1897.

Dr. Franklin was chosen from among the four nominees for president of the society who received the largest number of votes from members of the society. The choice among these four was determined by a vote of the councilors. The three other leading candidates were Dr. James F. Norris, of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Professor Samuel S. Parr, of the University of Illinois, and Dr. Charles L. Reece, chemical director of E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, of Wilmington, Delaware.

THE HAYDEN AWARD OF THE PHILADELPHIA ACADEMY

THE Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia announces the selection of Professor Alfred Lacroix, president of the Geological Society of France, as the recipient of the "Hayden Memorial Geological Award" for 1923. This award was created by a deed of trust made with the academy, on April 11, 1888, by Mrs. Emma W. Hayden, widow of Dr.