issuing from a small hole under the tin and flying in a close swarm, gently blown back and forth in the breeze like a delicate streamer. The swarm played in this manner for about fifteen minutes and then seemed to return whence they came.

None of the specimens were recovered from this swarm, but there seemed to be no doubt that they were Tenebrionid beetles living in bat guano in the tower. The insects secured from the bat guano this year were kindly identified by Dr. Edwin C. Van Dyke as *Blapstinus pratensis,* Lec.

In this connection the following Associated Press dispatch as published in the Austin *American* June 5, 1922, is of interest:

CHICAGO, June 4.—Mosquitoes flying in such thick swarms that they were mistaken for smoke caused two fire alarms to be turned in early to-day.

Members of a truck company answered a call saying that the steeple of St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church was burning. The firemen saw what they at first supposed was a small cloud of smoke and they raised their extension ladders to fight the fire. When they mounted the ladder they encountered mosquitoes and were forced back. The same experience was met by members of another engine company called to the Zion Methodist Church in another part of the city.

The fact that these two swarms were encountered the same day gives ground for the suspicion that guano beetles, not "mosquitoes," were swarming from bat-infested belfries of the two churches. The participation of the majority of the members of a species in the same locality on the same day of the year is, of course, a common phenomenon. If this were not so, swarming as a reproductive function would lose its adaptive significance.

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QUOTATIONS

A SUPER-UNIVERSITY

THE meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Cambridge fulfills in a way the vision which Franklin K. Lane had of a "super-university." In a letter written in his own hand on the day before he went on the operating table in May of 1921, he described this "place of exchange for the new ideas that the world evolves each year" as follows:

No faculty—but a super-university with all the searchers and researchers, inventors, experimenters, thinkers of the world for faculty. No students—but every man the world round interested in the theme under consideration welcome as a student without pay.

Except that the meeting in Cambridge was national in its personnel, it answered very well Mr. Lane's definition. Nearly all the departments of human knowledge were represented: chemistry, botany, anthropology, mathematics, physics, geology, geography, zoology, agriculture, psychology and the economic and social sciences. Those not included were represented in like meetings elsewhere. A thousand papers were presented, from Professor Edmund B. Wilson's on "The physical basis of life" and Dr. Bell's discussion of the smashing of atoms to a study of baldness and of the ideal stature of successful salesmen. Every paper meant research into the field of the unknown in man's environment and most of them pushed back by much or little the mystery that surrounds his existence or made friends for him of forces that before seemed hostile to his freedom or his life.

This meeting also gave the super-university "Faculty"—serving for very love of the truth itself in most cases—an audience that was generally competent to understand what was brought before it. And when the results are intelligently, intelligibly and accurately reported, as was done by the *Times,* the student body becomes larger than that of any university, larger even than that of the super-university conceived by Mr. Lane.

There is only one thing lacking, and that is a permanent exhibition of the yearly increments made by man's conquest of his environment so that the public may have an opportunity to see (so far as it can be visualized) "all that is new in science, philosophy, practical political machinery and all else of the world's mind products." If there could be a place for such permanent exhibition and illustration of the contributions for the year of scientific research and experiment and invention (and "why not in New York?" said Mr. Lane), the value of such meetings as that at Cambridge and in other parts of the world would be vastly increased.—*The Times,* New York.