

There is a special romance connected with this spot on the coast of Florida which ought to appeal to all agriculturists. Chapman Field, which is named in honor of Manuel Chapman, the first American aviator to fall in the great war, joins on the east the Perrine grant which was the first grant of any kind whatever made by the Congress of the United States in aid of agriculture. It was made July 7, 1838, to Dr. Henry Perrine who was killed by the Indians while he was making efforts to establish on his grant tropical trees and plants, particularly the sisal fiber plant from Yucatan, for which plant introduction purpose he had been granted a township of land in what was then the wilderness of south Florida.

As the work develops, the Chapman Field Garden will place its facilities at the disposal of the investigators in other offices of the Bureau of Plant Industry. Under proper departmental procedure, it will also cooperate with other research institutions throughout the country. Studies in the tropics or subtropics often shed a new light upon problems of northern agriculture and have a broadening influence of great value upon the mind of any investigator.

Much of the equipment remaining at Chapman Field, such as its water system, buildings, etc., can be utilized.

The management of this new garden will be in the office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction of the Bureau of Plant Industry.

DAVID FAIRCHILD

Agricultural Explorer in Charge

OFFICE OF FOREIGN SEED AND

PLANT INTRODUCTION,

JANUARY 12, 1923

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE CARNEGIE CORPORATION

ACCORDING to the report of the president of the Carnegie Corporation made public on February 5, the major interests at present receiving their support wholly or largely from this corporation are the Institute of Economics in Washington, an agency for analyzing and publishing economic facts in popular form; the Food Research Institute at Leland Stanford University, a scientific extension of studies in the production and distribution of foods begun

by Mr. Hoover during the war; the National Research Council in Washington, an organization that aims to focus and promote all sorts of scientific research in America; the Potter Metabolic Laboratory at Santa Barbara, California, where insulin, the recently discovered specific for diabetes, is being manufactured and perfected; the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, for which the corporation is paying the cost of a building to house a library recently acquired by the school; and comprehensive investigations into the fundamentals of unemployment and into the means of improvement of the law.

A total of \$5,254,000 has been paid to beneficiaries during the year ended September 30, 1922, of which \$2,578,000 went to colleges and universities. Of nearly \$58,000,000 expended during the eleven years of the corporation's existence, \$23,415,000 has been given to Carnegie institutions: the institution at Pittsburgh, the foundation in New York and the institution and the peace endowment in Washington. In addition to \$30,000,000 granted by Mr. Carnegie personally for public library buildings, \$12,292,000 has been devoted by the corporation to the same purpose. Schools and colleges have received \$9,276,000; medical and health education, \$3,266,000; and scientific research, \$1,511,000, chiefly within the past four years.

The report explains the policy of the corporation in discontinuing its gifts of libraries, and in a discussion of the "science of giving," notes the difficulties of making wise public benefactions.

The assets of the corporation amount to \$130,000,000, which will be increased by about \$10,000,000 on the final settlement of Mr. Carnegie's estate. The board of trustees, which includes as *ex officio* members the heads of the six important Carnegie organizations, is to be enlarged from ten to fifteen members. As has already been noted, Dr. Frederick P. Keppel, formerly dean of Columbia College and this year in charge of work for the Russell Sage Foundation, has been elected president of the corporation.

THE PROPOSED REORGANIZATION OF FEDERAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES

WE learn from a report in the *Journal* of the American Medical Association that, on

January 17, a conference was held in the office of Brigadier General C. E. Sawyer, physician to President Harding and chief coordinator of the federal Board of Hospitalization, to consider plans for the coordination of the health activities of the federal government. In addition to General Sawyer and the surgeon-generals of the army, the navy and the public health service, there were present Dr. A. W. Belting, president Eastern Homeopathic Medical Association, Trenton, N. J.; Lieutenant Commander J. T. Boone, Medical Corps, U. S. Navy; Dr. Claude A. Burrett, Rochester, N. Y.; Dr. Gilbert Fitzpatrick, chairman, executive committee, American Institute of Homeopathy, Chicago; Dr. C. W. Garrison, executive secretary and state health officer, State Board of Health, Little Rock, Ark.; Dr. James A. Hayne, secretary and state health officer, State Board of Health, Columbia, S. C.; Dr. A. T. McCormack, president, Conference of State and Provincial Health Authorities of North America, and secretary, State Board of Health, Louisville, Ky.; Dr. R. M. Olin, state health commissioner, Lansing, Mich.; Colonel W. O. Owen, Washington, D. C.; Dr. W. A. Pearson, dean, the Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital, Philadelphia; Dr. Ennion G. Williams, state health commissioner, Richmond, Va., and Dr. William C. Woodward, executive secretary, bureau of legal medicine and legislation, American Medical Association.

According to the plan submitted by General Sawyer, the proposed department will be known as the Department of Education, Health and Welfare, with a secretary who is to be a cabinet officer at its head, and an assistant secretary. The plan calls for the creation of a bureau of education, a bureau of health, a bureau of social service, and the Veterans' Bureau, each with a director-general at its head. It is to be expected, of course, that the secretary, and possibly the officer next in rank, the assistant secretary, will, because of their rank and their relation to the determination of the policies of the government, change with each administration. The several director-generals, however, are to be the technical heads of the bureaus, and as more or less permanent officers to preserve continuity of policy and administration. The plan calls for no enlargement or reduction in the activities of the sev-

eral branches of the federal government now engaged in work in the lines of activities to be incorporated in the new department. It is proposed that the various agencies of the federal government (except those within the army and navy) relating to health, education, social service and the rehabilitation of veterans be transferred to the new executive department, each to carry with it its present powers, appropriations and personnel, intact. It was suggested that the prospect was never better than now for the establishment of medicine as a fixed unit, associated with other departments of the government, providing in a most satisfactory and effective way for carrying out the highest ideals of modern medicine. An executive committee to carry forward the work of the conference was appointed by the chairman, consisting of Drs. Fitzpatrick, Olin and Woodward.

THE FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SOCIETIES FOR EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY

THE Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology held its tenth annual meeting in Toronto, Canada, December 27, 28 and 29, under the auspices of the University of Toronto. This meeting was one of the most successful ever held, due largely to the carefully laid plans of the local committee. The local committee was composed of Professors Andrew Hunter, *chairman*; V. E. Henderson, *secretary*; V. J. Harding and H. B. Speakman. The total registered attendance was 244, made up of 134 members of the federation and 110 non-members.

In the absence in China of Dr. Donald D. Van Slyke, president of the American Society of Biological Chemists, the vice-president, Professor Philip A. Shaffer, Washington University Medical School, served as chairman of the federation. The biochemical secretary, Professor Victor C. Myers, New York Post-Graduate Medical School, was the executive secretary.

A joint session dealing with topics of general interest was held on Wednesday morning, December 27. The dinner on the same evening was in honor of the birth of Louis Pasteur. Following the address of welcome by Sir Robert Falconer, president of the University of Toronto, Professor Graham Lusk spoke on