

committee would serve to postpone premature standardization and would indicate necessary additional experimentation. I venture also to suggest that the work of such a research committee would prevent, or at least diminish, the tendency observed on the part of officials of the State Highway Commissions to go their own way in the establishment of specifications for materials that must meet the local needs and conditions of the widely varying regions of the United States.

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

It is not sufficient for such committees to set themselves at a table at scattered intervals without a large amount of preparatory work. A research committee needs analysts to prepare the data of research for scrutiny, not only published researches, but those which are complete or nearly so and have not reached channels of publication. The committee is not averaging opinions but rendering judgment upon complete evidence. It is only an illusion to suppose that a research committee can be useful without adequate financial support. Its value is expressed in terms of activity and not in an imposing roster of distinguished names.

RESEARCH AND STANDARDIZATION

The necessity of research before standardization has been well expressed by Mr. A. A. Stevenson, chairman of the American Engineering Standards Committee. To take an example: The standardization of colors for signals for highway traffic demands agreements as to conventions by a standardization committee. But underlying this agreement must be research upon the optical and psychological elements of the situation, to be cared for by a research committee. Otherwise the agreements may violate fundamental human reactions.

W. K. HATT

ADVISORY BOARD ON HIGHWAY RESEARCH,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

GEORGE LEFEVRE AND THE MARINE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY¹

GEORGE LEFEVRE first came to Woods Hole as a Johns Hopkins University student in 1892, having a table in the Fish Commission laboratory, and he was there four summers. In 1897 he became directly connected with the Marine Biological Laboratory as an instructor in the zoology course. He served in this

¹ From the Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees and of the Corporation of the Marine Biological Laboratory held at Woods Hole, Mass., on August 14, 1923.

position for two years. Since 1905 he was continuously upon the staff for direction of zoological research; he was fourteen years a trustee and was secretary of the board for ten years. Few of the present or former members of the Woods Hole group have served the laboratory for a longer period. Five of Dr. Lefevre's publications are based wholly or in part upon investigations conducted here. Nearly every summer some of his pupils at the University of Missouri or some of the members of their zoological staff were at our laboratory, and six years the University of Missouri contributed to the financial support of the laboratory, all doubtless through Dr. Lefevre's influence.

But this bare statement of formal connections with the institution gives no adequate idea of the faithfulness of the service rendered, or of the influence of his fine personality and of his accurate work as an investigator. He was an outstanding figure in our Woods Hole group, his unfailing considerateness and courtesy, both as scientist and as friend, together with his genial sense of humor, contributing a large share to that wholesome atmosphere which has been one of the chief assets of this laboratory, so free from personal jealousies. George Lefevre was a sound zoologist who did much good technical scientific work; he was a keen critic, discriminating in suggestion; he was an inspiring teacher; he was an administrator of rare tact, good judgment and efficiency and our Woods Hole Laboratory, as well as his own university, had the benefit of his wise counsel. But, while recognizing to the full his strength as a scientist and as a leader and the thoroughness and devotion of his service to this institution, our chief remembrance of him will be as a sensitive gentleman, a tactful counsellor and a warm-hearted friend. The keen sense of our own loss in his death prompts us to try to express to his colleagues at the University of Missouri and especially to the members of his family our deep sympathy.

WORLD BIRD PROTECTION

MR. T. GILBERT PEARSON, president of the National Association of Audubon Societies, has demonstrated the possibility of creating a league for protecting the wild birds of the world. Leading scientific and conservation societies in nine countries have now organized and are pledged to active endeavors for the protection of the birds in their countries, and in aiding similar movements elsewhere.

This movement was launched at a conference held in London in June of last year. On invitation of Mr. Pearson delegates from several countries met in the home of the Honorable Reginald McKenna and determined that such action was necessary if much of the valuable bird life is to be saved from despoliation. Among the very active members of this conference