

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 LABORATORY<sup>1</sup>

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

<sup>1</sup> 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

were Lord Edward Grey and Lord Buxton, of England; P. G. Van Tienhoven, of Holland, and the eminent naturalist, M. Jean Delacour, of France.

Mr. Pearson, who has just returned on the U. S. Steamship *Leviathan* from a lecturing and organizing tour through seven of the countries in Europe, writes:

Europe is looking to America for leadership in some of the lines of endeavor in which we as a nation have specialized. There is no country in the world that is so thoroughly organized and has such advanced laws for bird protection as the United States, and many of our methods can be and doubtless will be adapted to meet European conditions.

Through southern Europe especially very little attention is paid to bird protection. This may be illustrated by the fact that in all France in the year 1921 there were only sixty convictions for violation of the bird laws. During the same period in New York State alone there were more than one thousand. In Hungary I was told that during the past year with all of the thousands of bird killers in the country not one had been prosecuted. In Italy I saw nets, traps and various cages used to catch small song birds for food. There is a vast traffic in the bodies of these little songsters in that country. In Rome I saw in cages small birds whose eyes had been blinded by red hot irons on the theory that in their darkness they would sing better and thus prove more effective decoys in alluring other feathered friends to destruction.

Our International organization is now in effective operation in the United States, Canada, Australia, Norway, England, Holland, Luxemburg, France and Italy. Other countries have recently been invited to unite with the movement, and action by them may be expected soon. Members of the committee in the different countries are formed into national sections which deal especially with bird protective problems distinctly national in their scope.

Everywhere I went in Europe our plan was received most cordially.

### INDUSTRIAL STANDARDIZATION

WE learn from *The Electrical World* that an unofficial conference of the secretaries of various standardizing organizations was held early in July at Zurich, Switzerland. This was the second conference of its kind held, the first conference having taken place in London in April, 1921. At that conference the secretaries of seven standardizing organizations were present, whereas at the Zurich conference secretaries from thirteen different countries were present. These included representatives from Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States.

The conference, which lasted from July 3 to July 6, was given over to a discussion of the practical application of standards in the various countries and of the extent to which international collaboration is

possible. There is a marked difference in industrial standardization and in the method of its application in the various countries involved. In Great Britain and in the United States the standardizing body is an industrial organization seeking government support, while in France, for example, the standardizing body is a government institution.

Reports were made by the various secretaries on progress in the different countries, and the American representative, Dr. Paul G. Agnew, was supported in his resolution that in order to help the cause of standardization ideas can not be exchanged too soon. Possessing no executive authority, the recommendations made by the secretaries as a whole will have to be placed before the executives of the respective national organizations. Progress has been made, however, toward closer international collaboration between secretaries and toward international amity on questions of standards. Mr. Zollinger, secretary of the Swiss committee, acted as chairman of the conference, and C. le Maistre of Great Britain acted as vice-chairman.

### THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

THE American Public Health Association extends to the public health profession and others interested a cordial invitation to attend its fifty-second annual meeting, in Boston, from October 8 to 11. Headquarters will be at the Copley-Plaza Hotel.

The annual meetings are always important events and the meeting this year is of more than usual interest since it ends the first twelve months of the new program adopted as a result of the association's reorganization in 1922. Two general sessions and twenty-six meetings of the scientific sessions will be held this year. In addition, many trips of technical and general interest have been planned in historic Boston as part of the entertainment and educational program. On Monday evening, October 8, the formal opening session will be followed by a reception. On Wednesday evening, October 10, Sir Thomas Oliver, the distinguished English industrial hygienist, and Dr. George E. Vincent, president of the Rockefeller Foundation, will address the second general session. The scientific program, embracing all branches of public health, will be held according to sections as follows: Public Health Administration; Laboratory, Sanitary Engineering, Vital Statistics, Child Hygiene, Food and Drugs, Industrial Hygiene, Public Health Nursing, Health Education and Publicity.

Among the subjects scheduled for discussion are papers on food inspection, growth of children, full-time health officers, mental hygiene in the school program, nutrition work, the effect of so-called moonshine liquors, standards for school house construction and