

effect is that of a picture gallery, its two curved walls hung with a series of pictures all "on the line." But the pictures are living. Each has a background of natural rock, grey or red granite, weathered limestone, sandstone, or slate, some with natural fossils, others with corals or giant shells, and each composing a distinct scene of subaqueous beaches and ledges, shelving rocks or tumbled boulders.

The aquarium requires a special staff, Mr. E. G. Boulenger, formerly curator of reptiles, has been appointed director, and has superintended every detail of construction and equipment. Mr. Vinall, formerly head keeper at the reptile house, is his chief assistant, and was sent to the aquarium at Amsterdam last summer for special training. There are two assistant keepers, an electrician and three stokers.

Since 1912 the secretary of the society and Mr. Boulenger have been collecting information from all the existing aquaria, and Messrs. Belcher and Joass, the architects of the Mappin Terraces, prepared the detailed architectural plans to their general designs. Miss Joan B. Proctor, now the society's curator of reptiles, made the designs and prepared scale models of all the rockwork, beside arranging the actual rockwork in some of the smaller tanks. Dr. Allen, director of the Plymouth Laboratory of the British Marine Biological Association, Dr. Townsend, director of the New York Aquarium, and many other experts gave much valuable advice.

#### THE MOTOR VEHICLE TRAFFIC CONFERENCE AT YALE UNIVERSITY

A CONFERENCE on Motor Vehicle Traffic, with special reference to regulation, control and safe operation, was held in New Haven on April 9, 10 and 11, under the joint auspices of the State of Connecticut and Yale University. The purpose was to consider the causes of accidents due to motor vehicle traffic and to discuss methods of preventing such accidents. Funds to defray the expenses of the conference and to provide for printed proceedings have been given by Mrs. Helen Hartley Jenkins, of New York City, through the Hartley Corporation, of which Mrs. Jenkins is president.

The causes of more than 15,000 motor vehicle accidents which happened in Connecticut during 1923 have been analyzed by the department of civil engineering of Yale University in cooperation with the department of motor vehicles of Connecticut. These accident statistics were presented at the opening session on Wednesday, April 9. This was followed by a discussion of "Laws governing traffic" and by a paper on "The mind of the operator." Under the general topic of "Accident prevention," papers were presented on Thursday, April 10, on "The education of

school children and the general public," "Highway improvement," "Traffic regulation and control," "Police methods," "Laws and court systems," and "Motor vehicle department procedure." The third day, Friday, April 11, was devoted to a discussion of specific Connecticut problems such as "Highways," "Street railways," "Public service motor vehicles," "The traffic policing of highways," and "The traffic policing of city streets." The keynote of the sessions of this day especially, as for the whole conference, was accident prevention.

Among those who expected to present papers during the conference are W. M. Maltbie, judge of the Superior Court of Connecticut; T. W. Salmon, associate professor of psychiatry of Columbia University; A. M. Meredith, commissioner of education of Connecticut; E. G. Payne, professor of education of New York University; F. S. Greene, superintendent of the department of public works of New York; W. P. Eno, Washington, D. C.; A. S. Foote, commissioner of public safety of Massachusetts; D. A. Adams, secretary of the New Haven Automobile Club; W. L. Dill, commissioner of motor vehicles of New Jersey; R. B. Stoeckel, commissioner of motor vehicles of Connecticut; J. A. Macdonald, highway commissioner of Connecticut; L. D. Storrs, president of the Connecticut Company; R. T. Higgins, chairman of the Public Utilities Commission of Connecticut; R. T. Hurley, head of the State Police of Connecticut; G. H. Farrell, chief of police of Hartford, Connecticut, and P. T. Smith, chief of police of New Haven.

The State of Connecticut is said to have the most complete organization in this country for the systematic reporting, analyzing and recording of all motor vehicle accidents within a state. This conference was part of a determined effort to reduce the number of such accidents. The critical study of the causes of such a large number of accidents yields data upon which to base future legislation and the education of the general public in the prevention of accidents. While the conference primarily concerned Connecticut, representatives of other states were invited to take part in the discussions, and it is hoped that it will result eventually in an appreciable reduction in the number of motor vehicle accidents not only in Connecticut, but throughout the country.

Robbins B. Stoeckel, commissioner of motor vehicles of Connecticut, representing Connecticut, and Professor John C. Tracy, chairman of the department of civil engineering of the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University, representing the university, were in charge of arrangements for the conference.

#### THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

THE *American Geographical Society of New York* announces the award of three gold medals for the year 1924 as follows: