ernment publication. It is to be hoped that such action may soon be taken. It would, of course, be highly desirable that a group of scholars should edit the work, and collaborate to make it so complete and perfect that American scholars may point to it with the same pride that Englishmen point to "The New English Dictionary."

A second enterprise of the same colossal nature I chanced upon at Princeton University. Professor William Libbey, professor of geography, has for nearly 50 years been engaged in making a card catalogue of the articles in the geographical journals which are in his library. This index includes all the articles which have ever appeared in such journals as Petermann's *Mittheilungen, Journal of the American Geographical Society,* the Royal Geographical Society of London, the journals of the French and German geographical societies, the *Annales de Geographie, Le Globe,* and others of the leading geographical periodicals, totaling over 20 journals. The catalogue is both a subject and author catalogue and includes about 150,000 cards. Any one familiar with scholarly work of this nature will recognize immediately the great usefulness to other scholars of a comprehensive catalogue of this kind. In printed form the catalogue would require four volumes of about 1,000 quarto pages each, and would cost approximately $20,000.

One can not measure achievements such as these in dollars and cents. Such works can properly be compared only with great works of art and monumental engineering enterprises. The courage which enables a man to carry through such a disinterested task for the general welfare of science deserves recognition and especially the recognition of publication by some American organization.

LOUIS C. KARPINSKI

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

ALEXANDER DYER MacGILLIVRAY

IN the death of Professor MacGillivray, which occurred at Urbana, Illinois, March 24, science has lost one of its most devoted and sincere workers and education one of its most efficient teachers. He was born at Inverness, Ohio, July 15, 1868. In 1889 he came to Cornell University, intending to take a special course in entomology, as he had already made a collection of insects and given this subject enthusiastic boyish study. Acting on the advice of the writer he modified his plans, prepared for and entered the university as a regular student, and graduated with the degree of Ph.B. in 1900. In 1904, he received the degree of Ph.D. While an undergraduate he assisted in the entomological laboratory and on graduation was made instructor in entomology. Later, he was advanced first to the rank of assistant professor and then to that of associate professor. He remained at Cornell till 1917, when he became professor of systematic entomology in the University of Illinois, which position he held until his death.

From the beginning of his teaching he showed the qualities of a thorough teacher. Although very gentle and quiet in manner, he insisted upon a perfection of knowledge on the part of the student that made him preeminent in preparing the student for future work by giving him a solid foundation. He was painstaking and patient but exacted excellence in scholarship. Many of the present generation of workers in entomology owe much to him for the training that he gave them.

Although never very strong physically, in addition to his work as a teacher he was a productive investigator, publishing many papers on systematic entomology. He also inspired and directed the preparation of important papers by his students, notably several of the "Illinois biological monographs."

In 1891, he married Fanny M. Edwards, of Forest Home, New York, and the generous hospitality of their home has been shared by many students. Mrs. MacGillivray and two sons, Malcom and John, survive him.

The death of Dr. MacGillivray is a great bereavement to the writer, for through long years of association with him I found him most lovable in character and most helpful as a colleague.

J. H. COMSTOCK

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE PACIFIC SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS

PRELIMINARY steps have been taken in preparation for the Pacific Scientific Congress to be held in Japan in 1926. Prince Kotihito Kanin has been nominated for president and Premier K. Kiyoura, Minister of Education Egi, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Matsui have been appointed honorary presidents. The committee on preparation consists of fifteen persons headed by Dr. J. Sakurai. Other officials of the congress include professors of the Tokyo Imperial and Waseda Universities. The conference will be held at the Imperial University, Tokyo.

A sum of approximately $100,000 has been allotted for excursions and for the entertainment of delegates. Like the conference in Honolulu (1920), organized by the National Research Council, and the Congress in Melbourne and Sydney (1923), under the auspices of the Australian National Research Council, the organization and direction of the congress in Tokyo is a feature of the activities of the National Research Council of Japan.

The scope of the forthcoming congress embraces the field of physical and natural science. The primary purpose is to discuss the problems relating to

the Pacific region and to make provision for international cooperation in the solution of such problems as food conservation, development of agriculture and welfare of the native races.

It is expected that announcements regarding program and routes of travel will be made within the next few months, with a view to giving universities, scientific institutions and prospective delegates ample time for making arrangements. It is probable that provision will be made in Honolulu for the entertainment of delegates to the congress who desire to visit Hawaii.

PUBLIC HEALTH SUMMER SCHOOLS

SURGEON-GENERAL H. S. CUMMING has issued the following statement to physicians and sanitarians:

In one capacity or another, directly or indirectly, you are engaged in combating preventable diseases which will cost the people of the United States this year over 3,000 millions of dollars, cause inestimable suffering and result in approximately 500,000 deaths.

Certain phases of preventive medicine are developing slowly, with consequent loss of health and life, primarily because adequately trained men and women are not available. In other fields of public health work the personnel has increased so rapidly that there are many at work who have not had the opportunity for training which they desire.

To meet in some measure this emergency, Public Health Summer Schools will be conducted this year (at the suggestion of the United States Public Health Service) by Columbia University, the University of California, the University of Iowa and the University of Michigan. Here all those now engaged in public health work and all planning to have a part in preventive medicine may get intensive, systematic training under leading specialists.

The announcements of the Public Health Summer Schools are now ready and may be obtained upon application. Requests should be sent directly to the universities.

Those in charge of the public health courses are at Columbia University, Dr. Haven Emerson; at the University of California, Dr. John M. Force; at the University of Iowa, Dr. Don M. Griswold, and at the University of Michigan, Dr. John Sundwall. The session at Columbia will last from July 7 to August 15, at California from June 23 to August 2; at Iowa from June 9 to June 18; at Michigan from June 23 to August 2. Certain courses at Michigan will continue for two additional weeks.

AWARDS OF THE ELLIOT MEDAL

AT the recent meeting of the National Academy of Sciences three awards of the Elliot Medal were made on recommendation of the committee after the submission of upwards of 20 monographs for the three years concerned:

Dr. Bashford Dean, the medalist of 1921, has been engaged for 21 years on his three-volumed "Bibliography of the Fishes" with the collaboration of some of the most eminent ichthyologists in the country. The tribute to this volume is by Professor J. Graham Kerr, of the University of Manchester, England.

This volume forms the final instalment of one of the most important contributions to zoological science which has been made in recent years. The science in question appears at the present time to be undergoing a slow but none the less effective process of asphyxiation; it is being gradually smothered under accumulated masses of detail. The researcher, finding himself more and more "unable to see the wood for the trees," tends in despair to desert his real task of helping to develop the general ideas of his subject, for the far easier one of the indiscriminate collection and publication of still additional detail. The more able type of potential recruit to the ranks of zoological investigators is, on the other hand, apt to be held up on the threshold and to have his enthusiasm checked and chilled by his glimpses of the fact-collectors at work. The great Bashford Dean Bibliography will do a really important service to the section of zoology with which it deals by helping to counteract the harmful influences just indicated, inasmuch as it will form an admirable guide to the investigator and learner through the otherwise impenetrable labyrinth of detail.

Dr. William Morton Wheeler, of the Bussey Institution, Harvard University, is the most eminent living student of the ants, as well as the dean of American naturalists. He received the award for his volume of 1922 "Ants of the American Museum Congo Expedition," a book of 1,139 pages, 45 plates, 47 maps and 102 text figures, which not only shows the ants' life of Africa, but present a reclassification of these insects. The tribute accompanying the award is by Dr. Frank E. Lutz, curator of ants in the American Museum of Natural History.

Professor William Morton Wheeler's genius, combined with more than twenty years of intensive study of the taxonomy and habits of ants, has made possible the "Ants of the American Museum Congo Expedition, A Contribution to the Myrmacology of Africa." This work done with the collaboration of J. Bequaert, I. W. Bailey, F. Santschi and W. M. Mann, is not merely a splendid addition to our knowledge of these interesting creatures; it is among the best contributions to general biology.

The ants of the Congo are described in full and critical detail; there are synonymic lists of the ants of the Ethiopian and Malagasy regions; and there are extremely valuable keys to the genera and sub-genera of the ants of the whole world. Of more general interest are the sections dealing with problems of geographic distribution and habits, including the social condition and the interrelations between ants and their living environment—plants, enemies and "messmates."

By unanimous consent of the paleontologists of