

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