For the past two years he has been connected with the U. S. Bureau of Standards in Washington, D. C., as associate physicist. The members of the new bureau will devote their time almost exclusively to research. At first the work will be entirely of a theoretical nature, but it is expected that as progress is made the study of a certain number of practical questions will be undertaken.

ZOOLOGICAL FIELD LABORATORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

THE University of Kentucky announces the establishment of a Zoological Field Laboratory near Quicksand in Breathitt County, Kentucky, which will be opened to students in the summer of 1925, as a part of the development of the recently acquired Robinson Mountain Lands.

The field laboratory consists of about five hundred acres of typical mountain country which shows almost perfect primeval conditions in native fauna and flora. It is extremely rugged, well timbered and watered, with attractive topographical features and unusual biologic resources. It is very rich in the number of species of insects, snakes, birds and mammals represented. Several mountain streams flow into the Kentucky River and Quicksand Creek on two sides of the laboratory so that exceptional facilities are offered for the study of aquatic life. The property includes some of the most picturesque of Kentucky mountain scenery. Suitable buildings and equipments will be provided for field laboratory work.

Through the courtesy of the College of Agriculture, students at the Field Laboratory will have the privilege of doing collecting, exploring and research over nearly fifteen thousand acres of closely adjacent mountain land in Breathitt, Perry and Knott Counties, including some of the roughest and least inhabited portions of the state. Part of the field laboratory will be set aside as a bird sanctuary.

The Zoological Field Laboratory will offer opportunity for research work in ornithology, entomology, herpetology and ecology at all seasons of the year, and for regular class instruction during the summer session. It will be under the direction of Dr. W. D. Funkhouser and Dr. W. R. Allen, of the department of zoology of the University of Kentucky.

CONFERENCE ON THE INGREDIENTS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL MEDIA

ON May 19, 1924, a conference was called at the Hotel Astor, New York City, to discuss the steps necessary in order to secure standardization of the raw materials of bacteriological media, such as peptones, agar, gelatin and so forth. The conference was called by the Society of American Bacteriologists through its committee on bacteriological technic; but representatives of various other organizations were invited. Those represented were: American Chemical Society, American Public Health Association, American Water Works Association, Dairy Science Association, the Dairy Inspectors' Association, the Society of American Bacteriologists, also two of the large public health laboratories, namely, the Hygienic Laboratory of the U. S. Public Health Service, and the Research Laboratories of the N. Y. City Board of Health.

The meeting was called to order by the chairman of the committee on bacteriological technic of the Society of American Bacteriologists who, by general consent, took the chair. He pointed out briefly the need of standardization in the field to be considered by the conference, but showed that much investigation would have to precede such standardization, and that this investigation would require the cooperation of all the organizations represented. The need of such cooperation was agreed to by all; but before taking up the means for bringing it about, considerable time was spent discussing the particular problems likely to be encountered in the work.

It was pointed out that the chief ingredients of culture media are: peptone, sugars, agar and gelatin. The need of standardization of sugars was recognized, but on account of the complexity of the problem and its smaller degree of urgency than in the case of some of the related problems, it was decided not to consider sugars at the present time, but to recognize them as a possible subject for similar investigation in the future. It was also pointed out that the problems in the case of agar and gelatin were likely to be fairly simple. For these reasons it was decided to give chief attention at present to peptone.

The various uses of peptone were considered: as a basis of media for the cultivation of miscellaneous bacteria; as the most important ingredient of the media used in counting water bacteria, and also milk bacteria; as one of the important constituents of media for studying fermentation; as the basis of the medium used in obtaining diphtheria toxin. It was suggested that each use might present a problem of its own and that it might be necessary to obtain a different type of peptone for each purpose; but it was generally hoped that one type might be found suitable for all purposes. It was decided that the only way to make progress would be to obtain various peptones of fairly definitely known composition and to learn which of them are best for which purposes by distributing them for testing among various bacteriologists. The matter of obtaining such batches of peptone was referred to the only manufacturer of