

The following statement concerning the work is made by Dr. Strong:

The medical studies and investigations which have been carried out on the expedition relate particularly to that portion of the Amazon Valley extending along each side of and parallel to the equator from near the mouth of the Amazon on the east, to the River Branco on the west, a region obviously comprising the greater portion of the most tropical parts of Brazil, and constituting a strip of territory comprised between about 3° 8' south (Manáos), and approximately 2° 5' north latitude (Caracaray), and 50° 50' (Pará) to approximately 64° (Parahiba) longitude west of Greenwich. It is a large plain which with the exception of those portions upon which the cities of Pará and Manáos are located, is almost completely covered with forest, and a great portion of it is semi-inundated. The climate, therefore, as one might expect, is characterized particularly by great heat and moisture, and there are an extraordinarily large number of biting insects many of which transmit disease. The great humidity and continuous high temperature throughout the year render the climate especially debilitating and enervating to those who reside in it, and the population in large areas has been at different times decimated by the infectious diseases which have prevailed.

The prevailing diseases in these regions at the present time are malaria, tropical splenomegaly, chronic ulcerative processes of the skin, leprosy and syphilis. Hookworm disease is also very common, and beriberi, dysentery, typhoid and smallpox are not infrequently seen. Special studies were conducted with respect to the cause and nature of the chronic ulcerative processes of the skin, to the tropical splenomegaly which is so very prevalent, and to the biting insects which prevail, as well as to the infections which occur in the mammals of the forest, some of whom serve as the intermediate hosts of the parasites which cause either human disease or disease in domestic animals. In connection with these studies several species of biting insects, which are probably new, and several animal parasites which have probably been hitherto undescribed, were encountered. Incidentally a number of observations were made on insects injurious to economic plants. In addition a large amount of valuable pathological material for study and for teaching purposes has been obtained.

#### THE NEW ENGLAND INTERCOLLEGIATE GEOLOGIC EXCURSION

THE twentieth annual New England Intercollegiate Geologic Excursion was held in the vicinity of Providence, October 10 and 11. Professor Charles W. Brown, of Brown University, organized the excursion. Dr. Marion D. Weston led one group, Friday afternoon, to McCormick's quarry where fossil ferns and calamites occur in the Seekonk sandstones and conglomerates. A separate excursion was led by Dr. Bradford Willard, the same afternoon, to Lime Rock, a locality famous for its contact metamorphic minerals.

Saturday morning under the guidance of Professor Brown the unconformity between the basal carboniferous and the Milford granite at Neutaconkanut hill, southwest of Providence, was first visited and later a graphite mine at Rocky hill just east of the first locality. The party then motored south to the Sockanossett Mine, where Rhode Island coal is taken out to be sold at \$14.00 a ton.

Professor R. M. Brown, of the Rhode Island College of Education, became guide of the party at this point and Gaspee point on Narragansett bay was visited. A study was made of the cusped bar and folded clays near a submerged cedar swamp excited considerable discussion.

After lunch Professor C. W. Brown again assumed the leadership and an ancient Indian soapstone quarry at Ochee spring was studied. Later the intrusive contact of the Milford granite and the Precambrian quartzites and schists of the Marlboro and Westboro formations was seen at the Manton Avenue quarry. The excursion was brought to an end at the North Burial Ground where an esker of problematic relations was of interest to all.

Thirty-nine persons from ten institutions were present during the two days. The institutions represented were Brown (10), Clark (1), Colby (1), Harvard (8), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (7), Mount Holyoke (3), Rhode Island College of Education (2), United States Geological Survey (1), Wesleyan (3) and Yale (3).

WILBUR G. FOYE, *Secretary*

#### AWARD OF MEDALS BY THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

At the stated meeting of the Franklin Institute held on October 15 the following medals were presented: The Louis Edward Levy Medal to Dr. Harvey Fletcher, of the Western Electric Company, New York City, for his paper on "Physical measurements of audition and their bearing on the theory of hearing," printed in the issue of the *Journal of The Franklin Institute* for September, 1923. This is the first award of the Levy Medal, which is awarded annually to the author of a paper of especial merit, published in the journal of the institute, preference being given to one describing the author's theoretical and experimental researches in a subject of fundamental importance.

The Edward Longstreth Medal was presented to Thomas C. McBride, of Philadelphia, for his invention of a locomotive feed water heater.

The Edward Longstreth Medal was also presented to Milton Roy Sheen, of Philadelphia, for his invention of the expansion machine for tunnel construction.