operations through the present year. Important discoveries are expected to come from where excavations have gained great headway. The oldest pictorial writings have been unearthed from a palace believed to have been that of the first kings of Babylon. The excavators are now working into some of the more important burial places, temples and fortresses that are expected to yield material of vast importance in reconstructing the story of pre-Semitic and prehistoric Sumerian races.

Madagascar has been selected as the field for an ethnological survey, under the leadership of Dr. Ralph Linton. This is a most promising region for ethnological research. The inhabitants are of cosmopolitan lineage and many of the tribes are closely allied with the Malayan groups farther to the east. The island contains twenty-six different groups of people, which are sub-divided into a greater number of tribes. The southern tribes are almost unknown. They are believed to be descendants of people who ruled the island before the Hovas, the present so-called ruling class. The Hovas apparently came originally from Sumatra. Some of the other tribes are of the Mongolian type. Still others claim to be descendants of the Arabs. The expedition will attempt to make contributions to the early history of the migrations of the Malayan group.

An expedition to southern California, under the leadership of Charles L. Owen, will be financed by the Julius and Augusta N. Rosenwald Fund. Complete data concerning the Hupa, Yorok, Cahuilla and Chemehuevi Indian tribes of that region will be sought.

In continuation of the botanical research in Peru, the museum has commissioned the well-known phytogeographer, Dr. A. Weberbauer, to collect plants in that country. Many new species have already been described among the plants from Peru secured by J. Francis Macbride, of the Department of Botany of the Field Museum, during the years 1922 and 1923. It is believed that further collecting in this region will prove equally profitable.

Primarily for the purpose of adding to the museum exhibition and economic series in the department of botany, Dr. B. E. Dahlgren will conduct an expedition in Cuba.

Further botanical collections will be made in British Guiana by A. C. Persaud, who is in charge of the museum field work of collecting tropical woods.

Dr. Francis W. Pennell has been commissioned to collect botanical material in the central and southern Peru sections of the Andes and along the coast and in the Andes of Chile. The latter country is rich in Scrophulariaceae, to which Dr. Pennell devotes special attention.

The museum will receive material from the Third Asiatic Expedition of the American Museum of Natural History, under the leadership of Dr. Roy Chapman Andrews, through its cooperative agreement with the American Museum.

The paleontological expedition in Patagonia, which has been in the field since 1922, under the leadership of Elmer S. Riggs, will continue its operations during the present year.

The African expedition, which spent the year 1924 in Belgian Congo, will continue in that country. This expedition is in charge of Mr. Edmund Heller, who is accompanied by Mrs. Heller. Recently the expedition has been working in the vicinity of Mt. Ruwenzori and it is expected to spend some time in neighboring localities for special studies of the gorilla and chimpanzee while making general collections of mammals.

An expedition to central Canada, among the lakes and marshes of Saskatchewan, will be carried out by Ashley Hine early in the summer. The object of this expedition will be to secure material for habitat groups of American water birds.

An expedition to Newfoundland will be conducted by Julius Friesser and H. C. Holling to secure group material for large mammal exhibits, especially caribou.

The series of zoological expeditions which the museum has been making to South America will be continued by an extensive survey in central and southern Brazil. This expedition will be undertaken by John T. Zimmer and Colin C. Sanborn. If conditions permit, the party will penetrate into hitherto unexplored regions of the central forests of Brazil, where no zoological collecting has been done. This expedition will make a very thorough collection of mammals, birds and reptiles and will remain in the field into and perhaps throughout the year 1926. In addition to largely increasing the knowledge of the classification and distribution of vertebrates, it is planned to obtain selected examples of the fauna for exhibition purposes, including certain rare monkeys and carnivores and birds of exceptional interest through their rarity or unusual character.

The working collections of the museum will also be augmented during the year by expeditions conducted and privately financed by H. B. Conover, who is at present in the field in the state of Tampico, Mexico.

D. C. DAVIES

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF SCIENTIFIC RADIO

RADIO research activities of wide scope were discussed at a recent meeting of the American Section of the International Union of Scientific Radio Telegraphy. The meeting was held at the National Re-

search Council, Washington, D. C., and was attended by radio engineers, professors, government scientists and others interested in research from all over the country. The American Section is one of the most active branches of this world-wide organization to promote research on the problems offered by radio waves. The officers of the Section are: *Chairman,* Dr. L. W. Austin; *technical secretary,* Dr. J. H. Dellinger; *corresponding secretary,* Dr. W. E. Tisdale. The president of the International Union is General G. Ferrié, head of the French Military Communication Service. The International Union is to have its triennial meeting in Brussels, Belgium, on July 7 of this year.

At the beginning of the meeting Professor A. E. Kennelly, chairman of the liaison and membership committee, explained the organization and stated that all persons interested in research on radio wave phenomena and related problems may become members. Every member is assigned to work on one of the technical committees. Professor Kennelly also presented a report briefly outlining plans for radio measurements by a number of laboratories during the solar eclipse of January 24.

Reports were presented by the chairmen of the section's five technical committees. Dr. J. H. Dellinger, chairman of the committee on "Methods of measurement and standards," spoke of the great increase of interest in radio measurements arising because so many people have gone into all phases of radio design and engineering and have found it essential to secure real measurements. There is outstanding progress in the accurate measurement of radio frequencies, which has attained international importance and popular as well as scientific interest because the reduction of interference in radio reception depends upon it. The work of numerous investigators and laboratories is providing means to give the necessary precision of measurement, constancy of adjustment and absolute accuracy of frequency basis. International comparisons of frequency standards have shown a very satisfactory agreement.

Dr. L. W. Austin, chairman of the committee on "Radio wave transmission phenomena" presented the report of that committee. The variations of the intensity of received signals from the high power station at Bordeaux, France, have been found to be the same in France and in the United States whereas no such correspondence in the received signals is found for measurements in the two countries on the transmitted waves from the high power station at Rocky Point, Long Island. In measurements on the strength of signals from European stations there is found a drop in signal strength just after the time of sunset in Europe.

Dr. A. H. Taylor reported work of the committee on "Variations of radio wave direction." It has been found that a shift of the apparent direction of the waves from long wave stations occurs at sunset. The direction shifts toward the east before sunset, returns to normal at sunset, and then usually shifts to the west.

Mr. E. F. W. Alexanderson presented the report of the committee on "Measurement of interfering radiation." A portable direct-reading instrument for field strength measurements has been developed. This instrument will make it possible to determine the precise amount of interference not only on the main wave of a station but in the side bands and harmonics. The use of a standardized direct-reading instrument of this kind will make it possible to obtain actual statistical data on interference produced by various radio stations and other sources.

MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN MEDICAL COLLEGES

THE thirty-fifth annual meeting of the Association of American Medical Colleges will be held in Boston from March 5 to 7, the headquarters being at the Copley-Plaza Hotel. The program will be as follows:

THURSDAY, BOSTON CITY HOSPITAL, 9:30 A. M.

Medical sociology and environmental medicine, Charles P. Emerson, dean, University of Indiana School of Medicine.

Bearing of neuropsychiatry on public health problem, Albert M. Barrett, professor of neuropsychiatry, University of Michigan Medical School.

Education in preventive medicine in regular curriculum, Haven Emerson, professor of public health administration, Columbia University.

Teaching of preventive medicine, Samuel R. Haythorne, professor of pathology and bacteriology and director of hygiene, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

2 P. M.

Address of president: The future practitioner, Ray Lyman Wilbur, president, Stanford University.

Correlation in the curriculum, Bernard F. McGrath, director of the surgical laboratories, and professor of principles of surgery, Marquette University School of Medicine, Milwaukee.

Teaching of obstetrics, J. M. H. Rowland, dean and professor of obstetrics, University of Maryland School of Medicine.

Teaching of physiotherapeutic measures, W. H. MacCraken, dean, professor and director, Detroit College of Medicine and Surgery.

FRIDAY, 8:30 A. M.

Practical demonstration in medical teaching at Harvard Medical School, Boston University School of Medicine and Tufts College Medical School.