

and if the Hawaiian skies prove satisfactory as an observing area, it will be replaced by a ten-foot reflector, similar to the one in Seattle.

A PROSPECTUS has been issued by the New York University describing a proposition to establish a national institute for research in colloid chemistry. In this pamphlet Professor J. H. Matthews outlines the need for such an institution and sets forth definite plans for the project, and presents the views on the subject of many leaders in this field.

ALONG the lines of the American national parks, such as the Yellowstone, an Albert National Park will be established in the Belgian Congo, according to a decision reached between the King and the Minister of the Colonies. A royal decree will be issued in the near future forbidding hunters to penetrate the zone selected, which is in the northeast portion of the Belgian Congo, at an altitude of 3,000 to 4,000 meters between Lake Kuon and Uganda. Flora and wild animals will be protected by the government.

THE Minister of the Colonies, by a decree dated December 30, has created a large game sanctuary in France's Antarctic possessions. These possessions include the islands of Crozet, St. Paul and Amsterdam, Adelia Land, and the Antarctic coast between Doigt de Sainte Anne and Port aux Lapins. The principal animals protected are polar bears, walrus, sea lions and penguins. The French naval station in Madagascar will be responsible for the patrol of the new preserve.

ACCORDING to press dispatches, Great Britain intends to enter the air race to the North Pole with an expedition next May under the leadership of a young Iclander, Grettir Algarsson, and Captain Frank Worsley, who commanded Shackleton's ships, the *Endurance* and the *Quest*, in their explorations of south polar regions. It will proceed to Spitzbergen, then north as far as the ice will permit and establish a base somewhere 81°. The final six-hundred-mile air dash to the pole will be made by Algarsson and one companion in a special seaplane fitted with skis and floats.

### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

SIMON GUGGENHEIM, former United States Senator from Colorado, and his wife have given \$3,000,000 for the endowment of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowships for advanced study abroad.

THE Commonwealth Fund, of New York, has announced the establishment of twenty annual fellowships for British students at American universities, similar to the Rhodes scholarships for American students.

ANNOUNCEMENT has been made of the completion of the \$3,000,000 fund for the establishment of the Wilmer Institute of Ophthalmology at the Johns Hopkins University Medical School. Dr. William Holland Wilmer will be at the head of the institute and professor of ophthalmology in the Johns Hopkins Medical School.

T. R. FERENS, formerly a member of British Parliament, has given the sum of £250,000 as a nucleus of a fund for the founding of a university college in Hull, England.

THE board of regents of the University of Nebraska has elected Dr. J. Jay Keegan, now professor of clinical pathology, dean of the School of Medicine to succeed Dr. Irving S. Cutter, resigned.

DR. PAUL F. SHARP, of the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station, has been appointed professor of dairy chemistry in the department of dairy industry at Cornell University.

DR. ERNEST C. LEVY, chief health officer of Richmond, Va., and director of public welfare, has accepted the professorship in preventive medicine at the Medical College of Virginia, Richmond.

CARL OTTO, formerly of the University of Cincinnati, has been appointed assistant professor in the department of chemistry and chemical engineering at the University of Maine.

DR. EDWARD HINDLE, professor of biology in the Cairo School of Medicine, has been appointed a member of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, to undertake research work in spirochaetosis.

PROFESSOR O. VOGT, director of the Institute for Research on the Brain, Berlin, has been appointed emeritus professor of the University of Oporto, Portugal, where he recently delivered a course of lectures.

PROFESSOR GUSTAV HERGLOTZ, of the University of Leipzig, has been called to the chair of mathematics at the University of Göttingen to take the place of Professor Runge, who has been made emeritus professor.

### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE THE ZOOLOGICAL RECORD AND BIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS

MANY zoologists in this country will be interested in the presentation by Dr. P. Chalmers Mitchell, in a recent number of SCIENCE, of the present financial situation of the *Zoological Record*. This excellent publication has served us well since 1864 and American zoologists would be the last to contribute in any way to its harm. Indeed, the obligation due our British fellows is so great that only some positive efforts on our part to meet their needs can serve to

express our appreciation. In view of the regard in which the *Record* is held by American zoologists, it is a surprise to learn how small has been their contribution to its support. It is much to be hoped that Dr. Mitchell's statement of the case will be all that is required to call forth an appropriate response from those who profit by the labors of British zoologists in the field of bibliography.

The position taken by Dr. Mitchell with regard to the continuation of the *Record*, until it is demonstrated that the proposed *Biological Abstracts* system either is or is not sufficient to meet the needs of zoologists in this field, seems to me wise. During this period of trial, as I understood Dr. Mitchell, the material gathered for *Abstracts* could be drawn upon by the *Record*, effecting thereby some saving of time and expense. Certainly all effective avenues of co-operation should be utilized in the common aim to advance biology. In the end it may be demonstrated that the reference system in zoology, represented by the *Record*, is so distinctive a service, as compared with abstracts in biology, the field of the proposed *Biological Abstracts*, that it should be continued, modified or unmodified as circumstances dictated. Should this be the case, and if meanwhile through cordial and sympathetic cooperation between American biologists and their fellows abroad, there should establish itself the ideal of a world's service in biological abstracts, the obligation to support the *Record* would be all the more insistent on American biologists.

It is unfortunately true, however, that even in respect to reference systems in zoology the American worker faces a divided responsibility, because he has given both a sentimental and a financial encouragement to the Concilium Bibliographicum and, at the present time, is responsible for its support through the National Research Council.

The thought would naturally suggest itself that if the two types of services are to be concurrent, there might be, during the period of trial, a delimitation of fields to prevent overlapping. This has been considered as a principle during the five years in which plans have been maturing for *Biological Abstracts* and the conclusion reached, especially emphasized by experience with *Botanical Abstracts*, that it is increasingly difficult to subdivide biology, even along the broad lines of plant and animal sciences. In this particular case there is the further difficulty that the *Record* is a reference system while the new plans are for abstracts. Then there is the very important practical consideration that the Union of American Biological Societies, which has assumed financial responsibility for the new venture, expects the service to be complete and will support it through individual subscriptions to the degree in which it represents the

varied aspects of biology. While the Rockefeller Foundation has generously subsidized the editorial features of the enterprise, the costs of manufacture and distribution must be paid by subscriptions. Recognizing our more fortunate present financial condition, the union has counted upon carrying this alone and has asked nothing from the biologists of other countries. Financial responsibility may, therefore, dictate some courses which otherwise might be debatable.

In this incidental discussion of abstracts, Dr. Mitchell raises some questions which have given much concern to those who have made a most intimate study of the problems involved in a complete world service of this character. How can you be sure that no worthy articles are omitted, how can the service be administered so as to meet the varied and varying needs of different groups, and how can the accumulated material be made completely available to all who may be interested? There are, of course, no easy answers to these questions—the easy things do not trouble us. Briefly, it may be said that the conclusion reached by us with regard to the character and scope of such an inclusive project was that determination on these matters could be made only by those most interested and competent. We came to the conclusion that the workers of no one country could do justice in abstracting to those of other countries, therefore we are inviting the intimate cooperation of other nationalities to the end that they may see that all worthy national products become international in their distribution through a common abstracting medium. We did not feel that specialists in one field of endeavor could determine the form or character of the material which would best serve those in another and accordingly have asked the constituent members of the union to name committees on cooperation to which could be referred questions of a special or technical nature. The particular instance mentioned by Dr. Mitchell is an excellent example of this form of problem. No one but a taxonomist is in a position to say what form of abstract will serve him best, and apparently an ornithologist does not desire an entomologist to speak for him in this matter. The best we can do is to ask the organized groups, which have crystallized by natural affinities out of the biological mass, to determine the form and extent of representation to be accorded their subjects. Finally, it will have to be determined how far, in the interests of all, the desires of the few can be met.

No one who has given much thought to the matter is inclined to minimize the difficulties involved in inaugurating and conducting such an enterprise as an international biological abstracts service. It has, however, now become a necessity and must be pro-

vided if we are to keep within measurable distance of the chemists and other groups, who have been more wise than we are. The difficulties can be met and a tremendous impetus given to biology by a cordial, frank and sympathetic study of the problem and by effective and whole-hearted cooperation in carrying out its solution.

American biologists have established a working organization by combining the forces of more than twenty national societies into a single union. With the help of the National Research Council, this union has sought and found financial support for editorial expenses and has assurances from its members of subscriptions to help pay for manufacture and distribution costs. It has made a five-year study of abstracting problems, and through the successful conduct of *Botanical Abstracts*, *Bacteriological Abstracts*, *Endocrinology* and other partial services has developed experience and a trained personnel in this field of bibliography. Through the "Bibliographic Service" of the Wistar Institute the animal biologists of the country have had seven years' experience in the preparation of authors' abstracts. All these things are brought as contributions toward the establishment of what seems to be the most necessary publication agency as yet unprovided.

In return we ask that our fellow-workers abroad join with us in planning and operating a biological abstracting service which will truly represent the world's contributions in all branches of the subject, and which will serve, in the largest measure, to make our bibliographic labors easy and effective. To that end we have invited the appointment of foreign representatives who will work directly with the committee provided by the union and the National Research Council. We sincerely hope our English friends will accept our invitation in the spirit of service which prompts it.

C. E. McCLUNG

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

I HAVE just read with much interest the brief article by Dr. P. Chalmers Mitchell on "Abstracts and the *Zoological Record*," published in *SCIENCE* for January 16.

It has been a great regret to zoologists the world over that the *Zoological Record* has had difficulty in meeting the cost of publication.

The *Record* is indispensable to workers in zoology and discontinuance of, or serious delay in, its publication, would prove a serious handicap.

It is noted that something over £150, a ridiculously small amount, have been contributed by American institutions and individuals to help tide the *Record* over the period of deficit. The California Academy

of Sciences was glad to contribute to this fund. It is hoped that many other institutions will do likewise and thus insure the uninterrupted continuance of this necessary publication.

BARTON WARREN EVERMANN

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

The following resolution was passed unanimously by a thoroughly representative meeting of British zoologists held in the rooms of the Zoological Society of London on January 10:

This meeting of British zoologists is of opinion that it is in the highest degree desirable that an effort should be made to extend the system of publishing comprehensive abstracts of zoological literature, and we desire to place on record our great appreciation of the work that has been done to this end by the American Committee for *Biological Abstracts*.

We are, however, also of opinion that the scheme that has recently been submitted for our approval is open to serious objection in various directions. Only some of these need here be mentioned, *viz.*:

(1) The magnitude of the work involved appears to have been underestimated.

(2) The financial arrangements so far made public are obviously quite inadequate for the purpose, which is a most serious point; it would be folly to assume that any publication of abstracts in pure science can be made self-supporting, and no scheme of this kind should be put into operation until satisfactory arrangements have been made for some permanent endowment.

(3) The proposal to publish the abstracts of the whole of biological literature in a single journal is unsatisfactory; such a journal would be extremely cumbersome and highly inconvenient for all classes of workers. Bearing in mind the probable great increase of literature in the future, a much sounder plan would be to institute separate journals dealing with convenient sections of scientific work.

(4) The abstracts will be very much shorter than those now being published in this country, and this brevity will seriously detract from their value to most workers.

(5) The estimates for indexing are entirely inadequate.

(6) No provision has been made for the utilization or coordination of the various biological abstracting organizations that already exist in this country and deal adequately with several branches of science; apparently it is proposed to reduplicate their work, but in a less useful form.

In the circumstances we consider that this scheme requires drastic revision.

FRANK BALFOUR BROWNE

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

## LOUIS AGASSIZ AND "DARWINISM"

SOME persons to whom I have told the following incident have advised me to publish it, but until now