invited to join the faculties of Cornell University and the University of Wisconsin. He accepted the offered appointment of lecturer in mathematics at the University of Wisconsin, where he entered joyously again into advanced study and teaching.

Dr. Hamilton's scientific and educational associates may well testify that he was a man whose integrity of mind, purity of heart and unselfish devotion to truth and to worthy friends enrolled him among the truly great educators of his day and generation.

M. A. B.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

PALEONTOLOGICAL EXPEDITION OF THE FIELD MUSEUM TO ARGENTINA

THE Captain Field Paleontological Expedition to Argentina returned to Chicago in April, after twenty-six months in Argentina and Bolivia, having obtained three collections of fossils which should exemplify the orders of extinct mammals peculiar to that continent. The expedition was placed in charge of Elmer S. Riggs, associate curator of paleontology, assisted by G. F. Sternberg and J. B. Abbott, collectors, all members of the scientific staff of the Field Museum.

The labors of the expedition were begun in the Santa Cruzean formation at the southern extremity of Argentina. Immediately following the notable discoveries made by the *Beagle,* Captain Sullivan had observed and brought to the attention of English scientists the presence of fossil animals of strange forms in the cliffs about Cape Fairweather. Later researches of Argentine, and of American, paleontologists had made known the strange and interesting system of extinct mammalian life represented by fossils preserved in the rock-ledges of the Patagonian coast.

Employing the method of working from the better known to the less known, the Santa Cruzean Formation at Rio Gallegos was the first of a number of fields to be visited by the Field Museum Expedition. This formation, exposed in a line of cliffs rising 300 feet above tidewater and continuously undercut and eroded by the sea, proved to be a fertile, though an unusual, collecting ground. Fossils were found not only in the vertical wall of the sea-cliff, and in the fallen blocks below, but often in the ledges of sandstone exposed at low tide and extending a mile or more out to sea.

In this region, and among most hospitable, English-speaking sheep-growers, the work of the expedition was begun early in January, 1923. The remaining months of the southern summer enabled the collectors to work over one hundred miles or more of the coast ledges and to make a hurried excursion to the inland region of Lake Cardial. As a result, a valuable collection of nearly three hundred specimens of fossil mammals was secured from the Santa Cruzean Formation before the coming of winter made it necessary to suspend field operations.

The second summer's labors were begun with base at the oil port of Commodoro Rivadavia. In turn the expedition moved inland to Colonia Sarmiento and after a wide circuit returned to the coast at Puerto Deseado. A number of fossil-bearing localities, known and recorded by Argentina and foreign collectors, were visited. A wide reconnaissance in search of new collecting grounds was rewarded by some important discoveries.

The formation designated by Ameghino as Pyrotherium Beds and by American paleontologists as Deseado claimed especial attention. Its rich and varied fauna offered to the collector a most alluring promise. The gigantic and strange Pyrotherium, known to science for nearly forty years, still remains an object of conjecture and a problem in classification. The equally gigantic Parastrapotherium is little better known. Isolated jaws, teeth, tusks and scattered bones of these overlords of ancient Patagonia were found in considerable number, but their complete structure will remain almost as much a problem as before.

The animals of intermediate size and the lesser fauna of this formation yielded more generous returns. A collection of 250 specimens representing twenty-four genera of extinct mammals, together with a small number of birds and fishes, rewarded the expedition's labors. The discovery of two new localities for the occurrence of this fossil fauna and additional light on the geological formation may be added to the sum total of results. The Nothostylops Beds of Ameghino were examined, but only a small collection was secured from them.

The occurrence of fossil dinosaurs of great size was observed in a number of localities in the territories of Santa Cruz and of Chubut. A few specimens, the first known to have been taken out of Argentina, were collected. A fossil forest with stumps standing upright, logs lying prone, branches and fruitage scattered about was discovered. A considerable collection of specimens of these objects was made. Collections of modern plants and animals were also made from the territories of Chubut and Santa Cruz.

The southern winter months of 1924 were devoted to collecting pleistocene fossils in southern Bolivia. The Valley of Tarija, known for many years as a

fruitful collecting ground, was made the scene of these labors. A large collection, consisting of the great ground sloths, glyptodonts and armadillos, members of the horse, llama and elephant families, as well as many smaller animals, was secured.

Two of the collections made by this expedition have been received at the Field Museum. The third collection is expected soon. Plans are made for the expedition to return to South America at the end of the present year in order to complete the work planned. Special effort will be made to secure representative collections from the Pliocene formation; also to secure, so far as possible, specimens of the great pleistocene mammals from the Pampean region. The latter will be especially sought after because of their great size, unique characteristics and their consequent value as museum exhibits.

ELMER S. RIGGS
FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

THE WORLD POWER CONFERENCE

DISCUSSION of the form of permanent organization, determination of conditions under which regional meetings could be held and trial publication of a journal were, according to *The Electrical World,* the three principal matters that came up for discussion at the meeting in London on July 27 of the international executive committee of the World Power Conference.

Twenty countries were represented at the meeting. While no decision was arrived at as to the time and place for holding the next world conference, the consensus of opinion apparently was favorable to a meeting in 1930. The invitation of Italy has priority. If conditions at that time are comparable to those now existing, it is probable the conference will go to Rome, but the executive committee would not allow itself to be committed thus far in advance. Although the committee was unable to accept the invitation of Switzerland to call another world conference at Basle next year, provision was made for sectional meetings. A meeting of the European section will be called at Basle, and the international executive committee will meet there next year. This was satisfactory to the Swiss and will take care of similar situations when there is a demand for a conference in any one of the grand geographical divisions.

In submitting a form of permanent organization, the executive committee emphasized the desire to safeguard the conference in every way against becoming a superorganization. The whole desire is to work out a plan whereby the central organization will be the creature of the national committees.

It was regarded as so necessary to the attainment of the objectives of the conference to have a publication that it was decided to publish the *Journal of the World Power Conference* for one year, to give it a trial. During this trial period all expense of the effort will be borne by the British national committee.

AN INTERNATIONAL FORESTRY CONGRESS

BY agreement between the International Institute of Agriculture and the Italian Government a committee has been established for organizing a World's Forestry Congress to take place in Rome early in May, 1926. The headquarters of this committee are at the International Institute of Agriculture in Rome.

The congress will bring together experts in forestry and the timber and allied industries from all parts of the world, and it is hoped that truly valuable and profitable results will be reached through the exhaustive discussions, which are expected to take place on all those problems of forestry which are of really international importance.

At the same time, in connection with the International Fair at Milan, there will be held an important exhibition of forest products and the machinery used in their conversion, which will enable visitors to examine the different products of the wood manufacturing industries and the wood-working machines made in the various countries, and should serve to increase the flow of international trade in this important branch of commercial activity.

Various excursions to the more typical forest lands in Italy, and possibly in other countries, will be arranged to follow the work of the congress.

The congress is already arousing the warmest interest as it is considered to be one of the most important events in connection with forestry and the allied industries that has as yet taken place.

THE SOUTHAMPTON MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION

THE annual meeting of the British Association, held at Southampton from August 26 to September 2, was, according to press reports, a successful gathering. The visiting membership numbers between 1,200 and 1,300. Owing to the convenience of the meeting place for American visitors, a fair number were present. Neither Germany nor Russia were represented.

The president at the Southampton meeting, Professor Horace Lamb, in his address, which will be printed in the next issue of SCIENCE, dealt chiefly with certain branches of geophysics, particularly those relating to the physical construction of the earth. There are 13 sections of the association. In one of these, the Botany Section, a special forestry subsection has been formed this year in view of the proximity of the New Forest and the importance of Southampton as a timber importing place. Lord Lovat,