

than high water. Visher⁵ has recently given instances of the concurrence of tropical cyclones and earthquakes. The large number of cases of this kind makes it impossible to ignore low barometric pressures in the study of earthquakes. It is the rainfall factor which should receive more consideration.

ROBERT W. SAYLES

NOTE: Since writing the above observations, the Montana earthquake of June 27 has occurred. It is noteworthy that Montana has been suffering for some time from a deficiency of precipitation.

THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM,
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

ALLAN RIVERSTON McCULLOCH

THE news of the death in Honolulu of Mr. Allan Riverston McCulloch, curator of fishes in the Australian Museum and chief fishery expert of Australia, has lately reached his American friends and scientific associates. Mr. McCulloch was born in Sydney on June 20, 1855. For forty years he has been known as one of the leading naturalists in Australia, having particular charge of the fishes in the Australian Museum at Sydney. He is the author of numerous papers, the most important being "Deep Sea Explorations, of *The Woy Woy* (1907) and *The Endeavour* (1914, 1916, 1917)," and a descriptive record of the fishes of New South Wales (1914). With these were various papers descriptive of new forms in the Records of the Australian Museum. His work is throughout accurate, methodical and broad-minded, his interest extending beyond taxonomy to the general relations of fisheries. He kept for years a carefully arranged card catalogue of the fishes of the Pacific, and had planned a general descriptive work on the Australian species as well as a general list of the fishes of the Pacific.

Mr. McCulloch took part in several important exploring expeditions, having been with Sir Ernest Shackleton in some explorations, later with Frank Hurley in New Guinea, and still later on the great coral-bound Lord Howe Island. While in Lord Howe he had a severe illness and was granted by the museum a year's leave of absence for "recovering from mental breakdown." He came to Honolulu in July to attend a Fisheries Conference of the Pan-Pacific Union in September. The agenda for this conference he carefully prepared, and it has been accepted by his colleagues.

It is reported that while in Hawaii he had periods of exaltation followed by others of extreme depres-

⁵ Visher, Stephen, "Tropical cyclones and earthquakes," Bull. Seis. Soc. Amer., Vol. 14, No. 3, pp. 181-184, 1924.

sion, which seemed to indicate incipient loss of mind. Mr. Alexander Hume Ford, secretary of the Pan-Pacific Union, writes: "While a charming companion, he has been under a constant mental strain." While in this condition he shot himself, on September 6, at the age of seventy. He left behind a note saying "Something has gone wrong in my brain. I am afraid of madness. Therefore I am determined to end things." He explains the purchase of a revolver in order that no fault should be attributed to any associate.

McCulloch was a man of charming personality, with a good position, many friends and a record of worthy achievement. His further prospects were alluring. The only reason for his deed was a premonition of a wretched mental future, the beginning of which he had already felt.

DAVID STARR JORDAN

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE LONDON CELEBRATION OF THE BICENTENARY OF THE RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

THE *London Times* states that the Society for Cultural Relations between the Peoples of the British Commonwealth and the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics held a meeting "on the initiative of the science section," in London on September 10 for the celebration of the bicentenary of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Sir Richard Gregory, who presided, said they were assembled to carry out a suggestion made to the science section of the society that while there was being celebrated in Leningrad and Moscow the bicentenary of the Russian Academy of Sciences, those who were familiar with the scientific work and workers in Russia should assemble there in sympathy and congratulation on the attainment of the bicentenary. For two centuries the Academy of Sciences in Russia had kept alight the torch of learning, and although at times that torch might seem to have been flickering, it had never been extinguished. Speaking as an astronomer, so long as thirty years ago they in the astronomical world were astonished by some remarkable telescopic work carried out by the great Russian astronomer, Belopolsky. It might be news to some of those present to know that in continuation of that astronomical work there was being manufactured in this country at the present moment what would be the lens of the largest refracting telescope in the world to go to Russia. The largest at present was in the Yerkes Observatory in Chicago, which was 40 inches in diameter. The telescope now being constructed at the works of Sir Charles Parsons, in Newcastle, was

to be 41 inches in diameter. Whatever might be the differences between peoples, whether temporary or not, science, like art, literature or music, was international. They could not place any boundaries upon it. There could be no distinction between scientific work carried on in one part of the world or another as scientific work. The position of scientific workers as citizens was quite another matter. It was independent of the results achieved in scientific investigation. They were present purely in that spirit of intellectual cooperation between men working for the advancement of knowledge in Russia and in this country, and for no other reason but to offer, as it were, a message of strength and encouragement to those in Russia to carry on the work there.

Professor A. N. Kriloff, a member of the Russian Academy of Sciences; Professor P. I. Schmidt, curator of the Zoological Museum of the Russian Academy, and Mme. Z. Vengerova gave addresses on the work of the academy.

Sir A. Smith Woodward proposed:

That this meeting of members and friends of the Society for Cultural Relations between the Peoples of the British Commonwealth and the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics sends cordial greetings and congratulations to scientific workers in the U.S.S.R., on the celebration of the bicentenary of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and in high appreciation of the great work by which the Academy has enriched the knowledge and culture of the world during the past two centuries, looks with confidence to the future for further contributions to promote the intellectual unity of mankind.

Dr. T. R. Parsons, of the University of Cambridge, seconded the resolution. He said he had recently visited some of the Russian scientific institutions, and any mention of Russian science would be incomplete without a reference to its physiology. The resolution was carried unanimously.

THE CONGRESS OF CLIMATOLOGY

DR. LEONARD HILL, of the National Institute for Medical Research, London, writes in the *London Times* that so successful was the Congress of Climatology just held at Davos that it has been decided to organize future congresses, one to be held in a different country every third year. Most distinguished scientific men have attended the recent congress, which has devoted itself to the study of climate and meteorology as applied to biology and preventive and curative medicine, but unfortunately the English and French members have been very few in number, and the English Foreign Office, by some oversight, failed to reply to the invitation to send an official representative, an invitation which was accepted by several

other nations. The general secretary appointed for the organization of future congresses is Dr. Vogel-Eysern, of Davos, who has organized the recent one. The chairman of the organizing committee is Geh. Professor Abderhalden.

Davos offered three great centers of interest—first, the observatory of Dr. Dorno, famous for his application of the study of meteorology to biology and medicine; secondly, the new Swiss Institute under Professor Loewy for the study of physiology and tuberculosis treatment at high altitudes; and thirdly, the climatic conditions and sanatoria of Davos, famous for the treatment of tuberculosis. The proceedings of the congress, when published, will show the importance of the communications made to it in regard to meteorology, botany, physiology and hygiene and curative treatment.

THE SCIENCE NEWS CONFERENCE

A LUNCHEON-CONFERENCE was held at Southampton (England) on August 28 to discuss the advisability and feasibility of establishing a British Science News Service along the general lines of the existing American Science News Service. There were present at the conference: Professor J. H. Ashworth, University of Edinburgh; Sir John Biles, president of the Federation of Engineering Societies; Major A. G. Church, secretary of the National Union of Scientific Workers; E. N. Fallaize, secretary of the Royal Anthropological Institute; Sir Richard Gregory, editor of *Nature*; Dr. E. H. Griffiths, University of Cambridge, treasurer of the British Association for the Advancement of Science; Dr. A. C. Haddon, Christ's College, University of Cambridge; Sir A. Daniel Hall, director general of the intelligence department, Ministry of Agriculture; Professor Horace Lamb, president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science; Dr. P. Chalmers Mitchell, secretary of the Zoological Gardens and scientific editor of the *London Times*; Professor J. L. Myres, secretary of the British Association for the Advancement of Science; Sir Richard Paget, barrister, London; Joseph John Robinson, editor of the *Journal of the British Science Guild*, also a local newspaper in the provinces; Sir Arthur Schuster, past president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science; F. E. Smith, head of Admiralty research work; Professor D'Arcy W. Thompson, St. Andrews University; J. David Thompson, formerly director of the research information service of the American National Research Council; Dr. Vernon Kellogg, chairman of the executive committee, and Mr. Watson Davis, managing editor of the American Science Service.

President Lamb, of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, presided at the conference