

and increasing the productivity of waters. This aspect of the committee's task is to be viewed in a broad way. Undoubtedly it is desirable that there should be experimental work of a relatively direct nature, but strictly scientific in method, in reference to such matters as the nutrition of fishes and selective breeding. It is also probable that no less important in the long run will be physiological physico-chemical and other studies not utilitarian in viewpoint but still having to do with problems underlying the *biological productivity* of bodies of water.

The committee fully realizes that the successful accomplishment of its task is conditioned upon the assistance of all who have an interest in the matter. It can report fully and wisely only if it has advice, suggestions, criticism and especially information from institutions and persons having a direct or indirect concern in the kinds of work that come within its purview.

This statement is intended to invite the submission of advice and information. Communications may be addressed to the Division of Biology and Agriculture, National Research Council, Washington, D. C., or to Professor R. E. Coker (Box 950, Chapel Hill, N. C.), who has been requested by Professor Metcalf to serve as acting chairman of the committee, pending his return from foreign travel.

The Committee:

MAYNARD M. METCALF,
Johns Hopkins, Chairman;
R. A. HARPER,

Columbia University;
STEPHEN A. FORBES,
Illinois Natural History Survey;

CHANCEY JUDAY,
*Wisconsin Geological and
Natural History Survey;*
E. N. TRANSEAU,

Ohio State University;
S. W. BEYER,

Iowa State College;
R. E. COKER,

*Acting Chairman, University of
North Carolina, Chairman, Division
of Biology and Agriculture, ex officio*

RADIO TALKS FROM THE HARVARD COLLEGE OBSERVATORY

DR. HARLOW SHAPLEY, director of the Harvard College Observatory and professor of astronomy at Harvard University, gave on November 2 the first of a series of twenty-two radio talks on astronomy to be given by members of the Harvard Observatory on Tuesdays and Thursdays and broadcast by station WEEL. Dr. Shapley's subject was "What are the stars?"

The other talks have been scheduled as follows:

- November 5—*Bright stars and constellations*, DR. WILLIAM LUYTEN.
 " 10—*Telescopes and their uses*, PROFESSOR WILLARD P. GERRISH.
 " 12—*Photographing stars and planets*, PROFESSOR EDWARD S. KING.
 " 17—*Great American observatories*, LEON CAMPBELL.
 " 19—*The origin of the earth and other planets*, DR. SHAPLEY.
 " 24—*Eclipses of sun, moon and stars*, MR. CAMPBELL.
 " 26—*Comets*, PROFESSOR KING.
 December 1—*Shooting stars*, DR. WILLARD J. FISHER.
 " 3—*The age of the earth*, DR. SHAPLEY.
 " 8—*The stuff stars are made of*, DR. CECILIA H. PAYNE.
 " 10—*Classifying the stars*, DR. ANNIE J. CANNON.
 " 15—*Stellar evolution*, DR. PAYNE.
 " 17—*The number and sizes of the stars*, DR. LUYTEN.
 " 22—*Star clusters and nebulae*, PROFESSOR SOLON I. BAILEY.
 " 29—*The Milky Way*, PROFESSOR BAILEY.
 " 31—*Measuring the universe*, DR. SHAPLEY.
 January 5—*Beyond the Milky Way*, DR. LUYTEN.
 " 7—*The amateur's work in astronomy*, MR. CAMPBELL.
 " 12—*New stars and variables*, DR. CANNON.
 " 14—*Relativity*, PROFESSOR KING.
 " 19—*Life in other worlds*, DR. SHAPLEY.

GEOLOGICAL EXCURSION OF NEW YORK STATE COLLEGES

THE first intercollegiate geological field meeting of New York state colleges was held at Clinton and Little Falls, N. Y., on May 15 and 16 last. The various delegations of teachers and students met at Clinton during the forenoon of Friday, May 15, and were guests at luncheon of Hamilton College. The afternoon was spent in a visit to the iron mines in the Clinton formation and in examining the Silurian section in the neighborhood. A dinner was held in the evening at the house of the country club near Utica. President F. C. Ferry, of Hamilton College, made a brief address of welcome, and Professor A. P. Brigham, of Colgate University, delivered a lecture on the geography and historical significance of the Mohawk gorge at Little Falls. Dr. N. C. Dale, of Hamilton College, spoke briefly about Paleozoic rocks and Dr. H. L. Alling, of the University of Rochester, discussed Adirondack pre-Cambrian problems.

On Saturday the party journeyed to Little Falls where the day was spent. The structural features studied were the various pre-Cambrian intrusives, the great unconformity, the fault bounding the gorge on

the east and the glacial pot-holes. The Beekmantown and associated Ordovician formations were accessible here. Dr. Dale acted as field director during both days.

Participating institutions were: Buffalo, Colgate, Cornell, Hamilton, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Rochester, St. Lawrence, Syracuse, Union, Vassar and the New York State Museum. Syracuse was chosen as the site for the gathering in 1926, and the general feeling expressed was that the benefit of mutual contact between geological students in such field excursions is sufficient to warrant making them annual or semi-annual events.

The thanks of those in attendance are especially due to Dr. Dale and Hamilton College for their entertainment, and to Dr. R. Ruedemann for furnishing valuable lists of fossils.

HARRY N. EATON,
Secretary

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

THE next annual meeting of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers will be held in New York City from November 30 to December 4. According to the tentative program, Monday, the first day, will be devoted to meetings of delegates and council meetings. The following three days will be devoted to technical sessions for the presentation of papers. It is planned to hold simultaneous section meetings on various topics. The subjects for Tuesday morning will be oil and gas power, machine shop practice and a session on wood industries. In the afternoon the subjects of the sessions will be industrial power, railroads, centrifugal compressors and calculation methods, and in the evening, industrial furnaces, materials handling, machine shop practice and springs.

Wednesday afternoon will be devoted to the presentation of the annual report, the awarding of prizes and progress reports of committees, and there will also be addresses on education and training for the industries, and several conferences. The annual dinner will be held in the evening.

On Thursday morning there are planned other technical sessions on the subjects of steam power, management, aeronautics and textiles. In the afternoon the sessions will be devoted to power plant materials, industrial psychology, lubrication and design, while the evening will be devoted to a symposium on national defense. The last day, Friday, will be occupied with council and committee meetings and to excursions.

Other features of the meeting will be the Henry Robinson Towne lecture on "Engineering and eco-

nomics" on Tuesday at 4:30 by the Honorable Herbert Hoover, and the Robert Henry Thurston lecture on "Engineering and science," by Dr. Zay Jeffries, on Thursday at 4:30. Honorary memberships will be awarded to Mr. Hoover and to Worcester R. Warner, past president of the society, on Tuesday evening, followed by the presidential address and reception.

KANSAS CITY MEETING OF SECTION Q, EDUCATION, OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

THE general plan for the meetings of the section at Kansas City are as follows:

Tuesday morning, December 29. Specific Studies of School Curricula. This program to be composed of five or six special papers, reporting work in different parts of the country.

Tuesday afternoon, December 29. Specific Studies of Teaching Procedure. This program is composed of five or six special reports of investigations in class-room procedure.

Wednesday, December 30, both morning and afternoon, given to reading and discussion of shorter papers volunteered for the program by workers in universities, teachers colleges and public schools.

Wednesday evening, December 30. Joint dinner of members of Section Q and the educational fraternity Phi Delta Kappa. The organization of the dinner is in the hands of Phi Delta Kappa. The address of the vice-president of Section Q, L. A. Pechstein, is to be given at this dinner.

Thursday, December 31, both morning and afternoon. Joint sessions with the Section of Psychology. The morning program is to deal with the refinements of instruments of measure in education; the afternoon with reports concerning psychological and educational clinics.

Persons who have been engaged in work dealing with the topics of the program are invited to communicate at once with the officers of the section.

OTIS W. CALDWELL,
Teachers College, Columbia University,
Vice-president, Section Q
A. S. BARR,
Department of Education, University
of Wisconsin, *Secretary*

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

It is planned to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the doctorate of Professor H. A. Lorentz, of the University of Leyden, by establishing a Lorentz fund, for the advancement of theoretical physics. An executive committee consisting of Professor Onnes, Professor Zeeman and Dr. Fokker has been formed to raise the funds.