

ance at the aquarium for the same length of time was 804,397.

The July *Bulletin*, which was devoted to the *Arcturus* expedition, has been issued. Zoologica, Volume 4, Numbers 3 and 4; and Volume 6, Numbers 4 and 5, have been issued; also the index for Zoologica, Volume 3.

On the 30th day of July the steamer *Arcturus* returned from a voyage to the Sargasso Sea and the Humboldt Current off the Galapagos Islands. Mr. William Beebe found that the former had been scattered by storms, so the *Arcturus* passed through the Panama Canal to the region of the Galapagos. The expedition reached there at a most opportune moment, as the Humboldt Current had been deflected by unknown causes, with the result that marine life was greatly disturbed and a unique opportunity was afforded for observation. The *Arcturus* found volcanos in active operation, pouring lava into the sea and destroying marine life. The total cost of the expedition will be upwards of \$184,000, of which Mr. Harrison Williams will have given a total of \$140,476.

Dr. Raymond L. Ditmars left New York on August 15, 1925, on a scientific mission to Brazil. It has been through extractions of snake venoms made by Dr. Ditmars and sent to the Instituto Soro Therapico, at Sao Paulo, that anti-venines specific for the bites of North American poisonous serpents have been supplied to this country. The Brazilian authorities were in need of sufficient venom to carry on the production of the characteristic serums for the United States. Dr. Ditmars took with him a fluid gallon of rattlesnake venom—the largest amount that has ever been provided for laboratory purposes—and was assured by Dr. Vital Brazil, at Sao Paulo, that this amount would be sufficient to last for approximately thirty years of immunization work. Dr. Ditmars returned with a quantity of the most powerful serum ever prepared for the United States, a fine series of living Brazilian reptiles, and materials for articles for the society's publications.

The need of an endowment fund is pressing and the executive committee has appointed a committee of Messrs. Irving K. Taylor, Henry D. Whiton, Bayard Dominick, Henry F. Osborn, Jr., and Madison Grant, ex-officio, to undertake a campaign to raise \$1,500,000 for the general endowment of the society. Towards this sum the conditional subscriptions of \$500,000 of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and \$100,000 of Edward S. Harkness are available, leaving \$900,000 to be raised. The members of the board of managers are requested to cooperate with this committee.

#### THE JAMES SIMPSON-ROOSEVELT EXPEDITION OF THE FIELD MUSEUM

THEODORE AND KERMIT ROOSEVELT, leading the James Simpson-Roosevelt expedition into central Asia for the Field Museum, have not only obtained eight of the rare *Ovis Poli* (Marco Polo sheep) but have secured the finest representative collection of big game ever taken in the western Himalayas, the Pamirs and Chinese Turkestan, according to an announcement made by D. C. Davies, director of the museum, following the receipt of letters from Col. Theodore Roosevelt to James Simpson, who is financing the expedition, and to Stanley Field, president of the institution.

"We got four male *Poli*, two young males, a female and a young animal," wrote Col. Roosevelt. "Out of this assortment the museum can get the finest and, so far as I know, the only group of *Poli* in the world." Forty-four large animals were secured during what Col. Roosevelt calls "the big trek through Turkestan, the Tien Shan and the Himalayas." The specimens include eleven Tien Shan Ibex and three *Ovis Karelini*, or Tien Shan sheep. Of this game Col. Roosevelt says: "We have for the museum two record heads, an Ibex and a *Karelini*, both of which fell to Kermit's rifle. I was fortunate enough to get the largest *Ovis Poli*."

After leaving the Russian Pamirs, the Roosevelts went to Srinagar, Kashmir, where they were met by their wives, who will remain in India until the second leg of the expedition into the central provinces of India and into Nepal is carried out. The hunters are now on the trail of the famous "armor-plated" rhinoceros and royal Bengal tiger, as well as other large game, including the leopard, wild boar and Indian deer. They are receiving assistance from Indian and British officials and are being permitted to hunt in protected areas for the rare beasts.

According to Col. Roosevelt's letter the expedition will leave the field about January 20 and return to the United States in February.

#### THE NORTON BRONZE TABLET AT CORNELL COLLEGE

THERE was recently unveiled at Cornell College, Iowa, a bronze tablet commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of Dr. William Harmon Norton's occupancy of the chair of geology. Unveiling of the tablet took place immediately after the dedicatory exercises of the Law Memorial Hall, the new home of the geological and biological departments of the college, and as a part of the proceedings. The erection of the building dedicated to the service of geology was made possible through the munificence of Reverend Doctor Marion Law, of Narragansett, Rhode Island.