

BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH AT THE SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY

As has already been announced in *SCIENCE* and the newspaper press, the name of the Scripps Institution was changed on October 14, 1925, by the Regents of the University of California from Scripps Institution for Biological Research to Scripps Institution of Oceanography of the University of California. In connection with the change in name it seems desirable to make entirely clear the relations the institution will bear to biological research. Marine biology is a necessary part of any comprehensive program for oceanographic research and in the future as in the past marine biological investigations will constitute an important part of the program of the work of the Scripps Institution. Since an institution with a limited staff can not hope to cover more than a small part of the field of marine biology the investigations of the staff of the institution will be circumscribed. They will be directed chiefly toward the study of marine plankton, the investigation of certain problems in ichthyology, and the study of organisms as geological agents and as a basis of interpreting the record contained in marine sedimentary deposits. It is hoped that the present program of the institution may be considerably expanded so as to gain a better understanding of some of the fundamental factors associated with the complex group of phenomena indicated in the preceding remarks.

Although the actual biological work of the members of the staff of the institution must be limited, such facilities as the institution possesses for research will be most cordially extended to visiting investigators in the future as in the past. During the two years since I have been director, the institution has been used as a base for studies by a number of botanists and zoologists, some of whom were working on marine organisms and others on terrestrial organisms. Among the distinguished zoologists who have worked at the institution since I came here are Professor C. M. Child, of the University of Chicago, and Dr. H. Boschma, of the University of Leiden. Among the botanists were Professor N. L. Gardner, of the University of California, and Miss Kathleen M. Drew, of Manchester, England. I wish not only biologists but other scientific investigators to understand that they will be welcome to utilize the facilities of the Scripps Institution to the limit of its capacity. No attempt has been or will be made to restrict the activities of visiting investigators. They may work on problems in marine biology and terrestrial biology; and I should be glad to have the institution used as a base for oceanographic investigations other

than those that are purely biological and for local geological work.

It seems pertinent to make a statement regarding the investigations of Dr. F. B. Sumner. As is well known, Dr. Sumner has for years been engaged on a study of the geographic races and genetics of *Peromyscus*, the deer mice, a genus of rodents. Dr. Sumner will continue his investigations on *Peromyscus* until they have been brought to a logical conclusion. It is obvious that this should be done in order to realize on the large investment of time on the part of Dr. Sumner and the investment of the funds of the institution. Before this investigation has been finished, Dr. Sumner will gradually shift the subject of his researches from *Peromyscus* to fishes. He will undertake genetic studies on aquarium fishes and he will revert to certain problems of the general ecological relations of fishes on which he was engaged before he undertook his researches on *Peromyscus*.

T. WAYLAND VAUGHAN

SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY,
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ROGER WEBB GANNETT

WITH the passing on November 17, 1925, of Mr. Roger Webb Gannett there was lost to the teaching staff of the Michigan State College an outstanding geologist and instructor.

Mr. Gannett was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on June 18, 1896. He was graduated with honors from the University of Minnesota in 1918, receiving the degree of mining engineer. Immediately following his graduation he entered the employ of the Bureau of Mines in Washington, D. C., where he held the position of mineralogist until a few weeks before the signing of the Armistice, when he enlisted in the army. After several weeks spent in camp he was discharged and returned again to the Bureau of Mines, where he continued until May, 1919. At the termination of his services with the Bureau of Mines, Mr. Gannett, with a party of geologists and mining engineers in the employ of the Oriental Mines Company, left for exploration work in Siam. After eight months of mining exploration in Siam, Burma and the Malay Peninsula work was discontinued in this region by the Oriental Mines Company, and Mr. Gannett received orders to join a field party already engaged in geological work in Yunnan, China. In the fall of 1921 he returned from the Orient and spent the following winter in graduate studies at the University of Minnesota. The summer of 1922 as well as the following winter and summer were spent in Alleghany, California, in practical field work as geologist and mining engineer. In January, 1924, he came to the Michigan State College as instructor in geology.

During the fall term of 1925 he was granted a leave of absence to carry on geological work for the government in California. It was there that his death occurred, due to complications following an operation for appendicitis. He was to have resumed his work at the college in January of the present year. His untimely death cut short a life which promised much in the field of science.

S. G. BERGQUIST

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

RUSSIAN SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

THE following items of scientific interest have been sent to *SCIENCE* by the Russian Information Bureau, Washington, D. C.

At the first meeting of the Academy of Sciences at Leningrad in 1926 the following honorary members were elected: Professor August Svante Arrhenius, of Stockholm University; Professor Lorentz, of Leyden; Professor Max Planck, of the Prussian Academy of Sciences, and Professor Vito Volterra, president of the International Research Council and of the Italian Academy of Sciences. The following correspondents were also elected: Professor A. A. Ivanov, of the Pulkovo Observatory; Professor A. A. Yakovkin, of the Technological Institute; Professor Arnold Sommerfeld, of Munich; Professor Emil Abderhalden, of Halle; Professor Urbain, of France, and the Professors Glinka and Zelenin, of Leningrad.

The USSR Academy of Sciences has approved the plans submitted by Professor Oldenburg for the organization of several scientific institutions of the USSR in foreign countries. These institutions are intended to serve chiefly as connecting links with the international scientific organizations. Russia had maintained before the revolution several scientific institutions abroad (Constantinople, Rome and Paris), but their work was poorly organized. The new scientific institutions are intended to acquaint foreign scientists with scientific progress in the USSR. It is proposed to establish such institutes at London, Paris, Berlin, Cairo, Washington, Buenos-Aires, Madrid, Peking and Sydney.

The Academy of Sciences is making preparations for the octogenarian jubilee of its president, A. P. Karpinsky. The venerable head of the Academy of Sciences is the first elected president, as in the past the president was an appointee of the Czar. Karpinsky has been a member of the academy for forty years, and its vice-president and president for the last ten years.

The fortieth anniversary was recently celebrated of the scientific career of Professor N. M. Knipovitch, one of the leading Russian authorities in land and sea exploration. Funds have been granted for the

publication of a jubilee edition. The celebration took place at Moscow in February.

The forty year jubilee of the scientific career of Professor V. M. Bekhterev, of the USSR Academy of Sciences, was celebrated at Leningrad on December 20. Greetings were delivered by representatives of the central authorities and the federated republics. Telegrams were received from scientists in Germany, France, Italy, Hungary, Yugo-Slavia and America. The occasion is to be commemorated by the establishment of several laboratories and museums dedicated to the name of the eminent scientist.

Professor Shokalsky has returned to Leningrad from a journey to England, Germany, France, Scotland, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden and Finland. At the request of foreign scientific bodies, Professor Shokalsky lectured on geographical researches in the USSR, and on his oceanographical researches, at the French Academy of Sciences, at the Sorbonne, and before the Geographical Societies of Edinburgh and Helsingfors.

Professor Steklov, vice-president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, has returned to Leningrad from a scientific mission to Germany and Italy. Professor Steklov represented the Academy of Sciences at the centenary celebration of the Superior Technical College at Karlsruhe, Germany.

The Russian mineralogist, Professor Vernadsky, of the USSR Academy of Sciences, has returned to Leningrad from Paris, where he studied the properties of radium at the French Academy of Sciences.

Dr. G. Golds, the director of the Bacteriological Institute of Oslo, has arrived in Leningrad on a scientific mission to get acquainted with the Soviet institutions engaged in the campaign against infectious diseases.

J. B. S. HALDANE AND THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE¹

MR. J. B. S. HALDANE, of Trinity College, has been deprived of his office of reader in bio-chemistry in the University of Cambridge.

Mr. Haldane was the co-respondent in an action in the divorce court, in which the verdict went against him. He was subsequently arraigned before the Sex Viri, who reported that Mr. Haldane had been guilty of "gross immorality" within the meaning of the statute, and that he was, therefore, deprived of his office of reader in bio-chemistry. Among those who signed this report were the vice-chancellor (Dr. A. C. Seward), the master of Corpus Christi (the Rev. Dr. E. C. Pearce), Lord Chalmers, and the master of Trinity Hall (Dr. Henry Bond).

The announcement of the decree has just appeared

¹ From the *London Times*.