

Such a committee should also have some jurisdiction over the systematic units, especially genera and species. The constant multiplication of these is much more subversive of uniformity and stability than the mere changing of names.² Even the specialist finds it sufficiently discouraging to have to remember two or more names for the same unit, but when the unit is also wiped out, whether it be genus or species, by the superficial methods of current segregation, the result is chaos. If the units thus produced were a consequence of thorough field and experimental study and were capable of practical application, the values obtained might outweigh the confusion introduced, but this is practically never the case, and a bad situation is made worse by the complete neglect of evolutionary and phylogenetic values, which should be paramount in any taxonomy worthy the name. The best usage of conservative taxonomists since the time of Linnaeus affords the only possible basis for making mycology of definite and far-reaching service and for converting it into a real science based upon evolution and relationship.

Unless it adopts these objectives as its own, systematic mycology with its perpetual changing of names and its futile splitting and duplication of genera and species will fall into even greater disfavor and will continue to be ignored by general botanists and specialists in other lines of plant science and to be regarded with apathy by student and amateur alike. If those who regard the best usage as a feasible basis will support the plan suggested, order may yet be brought out of the present chaos of names and units, and the time and energy of mycologists can be devoted to the many basic problems that are in such great need of thoroughgoing research.

C. L. SHEAR

F. E. CLEMENTS

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

EXPEDITION TO CENTRAL AMERICA TO STUDY THE HOOKWORM DISEASE

PLANS have been completed for a research expedition to Central America under the leadership of Dr. W. W. Cort, professor of helminthology at the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, for the purpose of improving control measures used in combating the hookworm disease. The expedition is part of a program of cooperation which is being carried out between the department of medical zoology at Hopkins and the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation.

² F. E. Clements, "Research Methods in Ecology," p. 12, 1905; "Ecologic View of the Species Concept," *Am. Nat.*, 42: 253, 1908. H. M. Hall and F. E. Clements, "Phylogenetic Method in Taxonomy," p. 2, 1923.

This year's commission to Central America will be divided into two groups, one of which will go to Panama and the other to Nicaragua. One group, which will sail from New Orleans about the first week in June, will consist of Dr. D. L. Augustine, assistant professor of helminthology at Harvard University, and Dr. W. A. Riley, professor of animal biology at the University of Minnesota. The other group, which will leave New York for Nicaragua the latter part of May, will consist of Dr. N. R. Stoll, associate in helminthology in the Johns Hopkins department of medical zoology; Harold Brown, assistant in helminthology at Hopkins, and Dr. Maurice C. Hall, chief of the zoological division of the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry.

Dr. Cort will divide his time between the two groups so as to coordinate the work.

This expedition will be the fourth taken under Dr. Cort's direction. In 1921 a commission was sent to the Island of Trinidad, in the British West Indies, by the Rockefeller Foundation, to make a scientific study of diseased localities there. The following year Porto Rico was the chosen field of investigation, and in 1923 a commission was sent to China, where fourteen months were spent in research work.

In both Nicaragua and Panama, the commission will be assisted in its work by officers of the health department, a number of local physicians, and staffs of native technicians trained in campaigns against disease.

The two parties of investigators will continue their work throughout the summer and will return early in October.

NATIONAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS IN THE BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

THE Board of National Research Fellowships in the biological sciences, at its recent meeting on February 27, made the following appointments and reappointments for the year 1926-27:

REAPPOINTMENTS

J. N. Couch—Botany
W. N. Ezekiel—Botany
H. W. Feldman—Zoology
T. N. Jenkins—Psychology
M. F. Metfessel—Psychology
Nellie M. Payne—Zoology
A. M. Showalter—Botany
Lee E. Travis—Psychology
Mildred Trotter—Anthropology
Conway Zirkle—Botany

NEW APPOINTMENTS

C. Dale Beers—Zoology
David Brunswick—Psychology
Kenneth Cole—Biophysics

S. F. Cook—Botany
 A. S. Foster—Botany
 Albert H. Gee—Biochemistry
 R. E. Girtton—Botany
 S. M. Gordon—Biochemistry
 E. D. Hutchinson—Psychology
 H. D. Kruse—Biochemistry
 W. C. Olson—Psychology
 E. Quisumbing—Botany
 W. D. Strong—Anthropology
 Paul T. Young—Psychology
 R. L. Zwemer—Zoology

A second meeting of the board to consider additional applications for the year 1926-27 is planned for the middle of May. Information and application forms may be obtained from the Secretary, Board of National Research Fellowships in the Biological Sciences, National Research Council, Washington, D. C.

OIL AND GAS POWER NATIONAL CONFERENCE

IN keeping with the action of Secretary of Commerce Hoover in encouraging industry to stimulate research, a large group of technical societies are participating in the Oil and Gas Power National Conference with a nation-wide program of meetings during the week of April 19 through 24.

The purpose of the conference is to focus the attention of physicists, chemists, engineers, operating men and industries on the recent progress and immediate possibilities in the utilization of oil and gas for power purposes. The program includes over seventy-five gatherings at industrial centers where the scientific production and economic problems related to internal combustion engines and their fuels will be discussed.

Many new developments will be presented for public discussion and criticism, one of which will be the application of the high speed Diesel engine for automotive traction service. The extensive application of the Diesel engine to locomotive practice which is now in process, the design of oil engines for stationary power plants and the increasing use of Diesel engines in marine work are some of the topics that will receive attention. One feature of the conference meetings is the large number of papers prepared in plain terms to reveal the rapid advances in the application and use of internal combustion engines for power purposes.

A prize of \$100 will be conferred on the writer of the paper that best fulfills the objects of the conference. The award will be made by a committee of outstanding chemists and engineers.

The societies participating are:

American Chemical Society, Local Sections
 American Engineering Council
 American Institute of Consulting Engineers

American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers
 American Mining Congress
 American Petroleum Institute
 American Society of Agricultural Engineers
 American Society of Marine Designers
 American Society of Mechanical Engineers
 American Society of Naval Engineers
 Affiliated Technical Societies of Boston
 Chemical and Engineering Schools and Colleges
 Detroit Engineering Society
 Engineers' Club of Cincinnati
 Engineers' Club of Philadelphia
 Engineers' Club of Trenton
 Engineers' Society of Milwaukee
 Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania
 Louisiana Engineering Society
 National Association of Stationary Engineers
 National Board of Fire Underwriters
 National Research Council
 National Safety Council
 Rochester Engineering Society
 Society for Promotion of Engineering Education
 Society of Industrial Engineers
 U. S. Bureau of Standards
 U. S. Geological Survey

The General Committee is composed of: L. H. Baekeland, Fred M. Becket, G. K. Burgess, H. L. Doherty, W. F. Durand, J. E. Edgerton, H. L. Horning, Arthur D. Little, Fred R. Low, Chas. E. Lucke, D. A. Lyon, J. V. W. Beynders, George Otis Smith, Bradley Stoughton, John E. Teeple, Guy E. Tripp.

The Steering Committee consists of: D. H. Killeffer, *chairman*, 29 West 39th Street, New York; Edgar J. Kates, Julius Kuttner, L. H. Morrison, R. L. Welch.

APRIL 5, 1926

THE OXFORD MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION

THE PRINCE OF WALES will deliver the presidential address to the British Association for the Advancement of Science this year at the meeting at Oxford, which takes place from August 4 to 11. The proceedings will be opened on the evening of August 4, in the Sheldonian Theater, when the Prince is expected to deal with the relations between scientific research, the community and the state, both at home and in the oversea dominions.

There are thirteen sections of the association which will meet daily, and in addition there are evening lectures, both for members and for the general public. Professor A. S. Eddington, professor of astronomy at the University of Cambridge, has promised to give one of the lectures to members, and the speakers already arranged for the public lectures include Captain Eckersley, who will deal with wireless questions, Professor Julian Huxley and Mr. P. F. Kendle, who will speak on some aspect of coal. Professor F. O. Bower will give a review of botany, contrasting it as