

vate schools was over 58,000, and the attendance at Botanic Garden classes was 30,000. The teaching of nature study and botany in our city schools was enriched by the supply of plant material to over 2,200 teachers in quantity sufficient for the instruction of over 162,000 pupils.

The Brooklyn garden is in correspondence with 110 foreign gardens and has sent over 3,200 packages of seeds from these institutions. In return the local garden has received seeds from these institutions. The plants raised from these seeds are annually enriching the plantations and have made the collections at the Brooklyn Garden one of the richest in number of varieties in the entire country.

The director calls special attention to the effective work which the Botanic Garden is doing for wild flower conservation, in cooperation with other organizations. This included securing the passage of legislation by the State Legislature so as to include various wild flowers in the conservation law, the growing and distribution of wild flowers now in danger of extinction, and the preservation of the wonderful weeping beech at Flushing, in Queens Borough. This is considered to be the largest and most beautiful specimen of this species of tree in the world. It would have been cut down to make way for an apartment house had not the Botanic Garden and other organizations supported the Park Commissioner of Queens in a campaign to save the tree.

The report includes an account of the important investigations in progress at the garden along the lines of plant breeding, plant diseases and the vegetation of Long Island. Of special popular interest is the progress being made in the study of the destructive chestnut tree disease. This disease started in New York City and so it is eminently fitting that studies looking toward its control or eradication should be made by a city institution. It has been estimated that the loss to this city alone, by the destruction of the chestnuts in parks and the watershed of the City water supply, amounted to not less than one million dollars.

Dr. Gager, the director of the garden, also calls attention to the disastrous effect on the trees of the garden and of all the city parks, especially the evergreen trees, by the soot and fumes produced by the burning of oil and soft coal during the past winter. The seriousness of this menace to all city trees can hardly be exaggerated.

Attention is also called to the increasingly large service which the garden is rendering to industrial and commercial concerns through its bureau of information. The information thus supplied by the Botanic Garden has resulted in the saving of thousands of dollars by these concerns.

The garden library contains the richest collection on Long Island of books on horticulture, gardening, and all aspects of plant life, including current numbers of about 800 periodicals on these subjects.

Since the Botanic Garden authorities assumed supervision of this part of the old East side lands the assessed valuation of the property, as noted by the director, has increased from \$2,400,000 in 1913 to \$7,000,000 last year. The value of all adjacent property has been correspondingly advanced by the development of the beautiful garden and its educational and scientific opportunities. Nearly one half the Botanic Garden budget for 1925 was obtained from private funds, much of which had to be secured by the uncertain method of solicitation of contributions.

Last May, after a thorough inspection of the Botanical Garden, its activities, equipment, finances and administration, Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., offered personally to give \$250,000 to the endowment fund provided the Garden authorities would secure an equivalent amount before the close of 1926. Mr. A. M. White is chairman of a special committee which has in charge the raising of this fund. This is a relatively small amount for these days, and especially considering the importance and extent of the Botanic Garden's work, and there should be no difficulty of going over the top with a wide margin.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE HARVARD EXPEDITION TO AFRICA

AN expedition to study diseases in Africa and to throw light on little-known forms of life left on May 15, headed by Dr. Richard P. Strong, director of the Institute of Tropical Biology and Medicine, Harvard University. The expedition is the first sent by the Harvard Medical School to Africa. Special attention will be given to the study of sleeping sickness and the effects of certain drugs on this disease. An entomologist, two zoologists, a bacteriologist, a clinician, a botanist and a photographer will make up the contingent of white men. Three hundred natives, to be picked up on arrival at Monrovia, will be taken along as porters.

Dr. Strong has made the following statement regarding the plans of the expedition according to an associated press dispatch:

The African expedition, which is a continuation of the Amazon expedition of 1924-1925, will take a year and is certain to result in the discoveries of some new diseases, as we shall be penetrating country, studying men and plant and animal and insect life which have never yet been surveyed in this way.

The expedition will sail for Great Britain, where it will be outfitted, a task requiring about a month. We have

to carry with us everything that we shall need for the entire year. This means not only all our scientific equipment—as we shall carry our laboratories along with us—but all our clothing and necessary comforts and safeguards. We should arrive at Monrovia, the capital of Liberia, on the west coast of Africa, about July 8. From there we shall proceed to Grajbassa, further down the coast, and then strike inland. We shall keep moving in a southeasterly direction, traversing a part of the Congo, and finally arriving at British East Africa, near Lake Alban and Mombasa.

Other members of the expedition, all on the staff of the Institute of Tropical Medicine, are: Dr. Joseph Bequaert, assistant professor of entomology, formerly with the Belgian sleeping sickness commission, with eight years' service in the Congo; Dr. Glover M. Allen, zoologist, author of special studies in East Africa on mammalian life; Dr. George Shattuck, assistant professor of tropical medicine, a participant in the Amazon expedition and, before that, on the typhus investigation in the Balkans; Dr. Max Theiler, bacteriologist, son of Sir Arnold Theiler, of South Africa, formerly of the London School of Tropical Medicine; Dr. Harold Coolidge, zoologist, formerly with the Smithsonian Institution; Mr. Loring Whitman, photographer, and a botanist not yet selected.

#### A PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE ON UNIVERSITY RESEARCH

PLANS for a survey of research facilities in American universities in the field of pure science were made at a preliminary conference at the University of Pennsylvania on May 3 of representatives of universities, research institutions, foundations supporting research efforts, commercial laboratories and national scientific societies. The conference passed a resolution endorsing heartily the project of the National Academy of Sciences for the National Research Endowment. Secretary Hoover, Mr. Root and Mr. Hughes are leading the endowment campaign to raise \$20,000,000 to aid American universities in carrying on fundamental research during the next ten years.

It was decided to call a general, formal conference next fall looking toward a comprehensive survey of university research work. This call is to be issued by a committee of seven representatives of universities and an advisory committee of seven representatives of various research organizations, to be appointed in the near future.

President Josiah H. Penniman, of the University of Pennsylvania, in his statement as presiding officer of the meeting, pointed out that, while all the agencies represented "have a common interest in research in pure science, the universities alone are directly responsible for the training of research workers."

Research institutes and commercial laboratories have during the past few years drawn away from the universities many of the most experienced teachers and investigators "with the result that the teaching staffs of the universities have been weakened and the training of men for future research is seriously threatened."

Dr. Penniman then outlined a possible procedure "by which the university can better serve its function as a center of certain types of fundamental investigations and as the primary agency in the education and training of investigators."

Those present at the Philadelphia conference were:

Dr. J. C. Merriam, Carnegie Institution of Washington, D. C.; Dr. William C. White, United States Public Health Service; Dr. Alfred H. Lloyd, University of Michigan; Dr. Arthur H. Daniels, University of Illinois; Dr. Henry H. Donaldson, the Wistar Institute, Philadelphia; Alfred D. Flinn, Engineering Foundation; General John J. Carty, American Telephone and Telegraph Company; Dr. Howard McClenahan, secretary, the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia; Dr. William C. L. Eglin, president, the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia; Dr. Vernon Kellogg, National Research Council; Dr. H. F. Blichfeldt, Stanford University; Professor L. R. Jones, University of Wisconsin; W. R. Whitney, Research Laboratory, General Electric Company; Chancellor Elmer Ellsworth Brown, New York University; Professor Michael Pupin, Columbia University; Dr. Charles H. Warren, Yale University; Professor L. J. Henderson, Harvard University; Dr. Simon Flexner, Rockefeller Institute; Dr. Livingston Farland, president, Cornell University; Professor J. S. Ames, Johns Hopkins University; Dr. Josiah H. Penniman, provost, University of Pennsylvania; Professor A. O. Leuschner, University of California.

#### AWARDS OF THE LAPHAM MEDALS OF THE WISCONSIN ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

TEN men were awarded the Lapham medal given for distinguished research work in anthropology at the recent silver anniversary meeting of the Wisconsin Archeological Society. They are: Charles E. Brown, director of the State Historical Museum, Madison; George A. West, Milwaukee; Dr. S. A. Barrett, Milwaukee; Dr. George L. Collie, Beloit; H. E. Cole, Baraboo; John P. Schumacher, Green Bay; Dr. Alfonso Gerend, Milladore; H. L. Scavlam, Janesville; Dr. W. G. McLaughlin, McFarland, and George R. Fox, Three Oaks, Mich.

When the society organized in 1901 the members decided to award a medal annually to those members who performed notable research work in anthropology in Wisconsin. This is the first year, however, that the award has been made. Most of the men who received the medal were members of the society for almost 25 years. All conducted research at their own expense.