terested in the different problems of soil classification, soil analysis, fertilization and treatment, as well as the relation of the soil to plant growth. Extensive exhibits of various soil types (monolithic columns, in respective horizons) from Europe and America, apparatus used in soil analyses, of the soil microflora and microfauna, etc., will be held during the congress.

DR. J. G. LIPMAN,
President International Society of Soil Science, New Brunswick, N. J.
DR. D. J. HISSINK,
Secretary, Groningen, Holland

PARASITES IN CENTRAL AMERICAN TROPICS

UNEXPECTED findings concerning animal parasites in Central American countries are reported by Dr. Maurice C. Hall, chief of the zoological division of the Bureau of Animal Industry, who returned on September 15 from a research expedition in the tropics. In representing the United States Department of Agriculture, Dr. Hall made a survey of the animal-parasite situation in Panama, Nicaragua and Salvador. The expedition was organized by and directed by the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health and conducted under the auspices of the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation. The staff included also Drs. Cort, Stoll, Sweet, Riley, Augustine and Brown. Dr. Cort was the director.

Besides gathering extensive information concerning parasites and parasitic diseases in the countries mentioned, the scientists brought back about 150 bottles of prevailing parasites, some of them apparently new and of economic and scientific importance.

"The trip has furnished a valuable background of tropical conditions as regards factors in parasitic development," according to Dr. Hall. "In the extent and nature of diseases of livestock caused by parasites in the countries visited, the findings were unexpected and reassuring in many respects. The range cattle of those countries proved to be practically free from gastro-intestinal parasites, and in many cases appeared to be entirely so. While there is an abundance of moisture and warmth in the tropics, things which themselves are favorable to parasites, the seasonal distribution of rain is highly unfavorable to parasite eggs and larvae.

"In the countries visited—Panama, Nicaragua, Salvador and Guatemala—there are from two to six months, as a rule, and more in exceptional seasons such as this year, when there is no rain whatever. In the absence of moisture the hot tropical sun has a desiccating effect which is fatal to parasite eggs and larvae and which must have a decided sterilizing action on bacteria. Furthermore, the rains themselves are torrential and in the mountainous countries must have a washing effect which serves to sweep worm eggs and larvae into the many water courses and out of contact with livestock. Finally, there is little overstocking on these ranges and a resulting lack of concentrated infection."

One important object of the expedition was to determine what tropical diseases are likely to be carried northward by shipments of livestock. The survey has given a satisfactory answer to that question.

Cattle in the countries visited suffer from ticks and tick fever. Tuberculosis appears to be rare among the range cattle; the bacterial diseases of importance were anthrax, blackleg and tetanus. In contrast to the relative freedom of range livestock from parasites, household animals in the countries visited showed fairly extensive infestation. Swine especially suffer from kidney worms which cause considerable loss of meat and lard. Another common swine parasite causes the disease known as swine measles or cysticercosis, due to bladderworms in the meat. These bladderworms are the larval stages of a large and dangerous human tapeworm.

The results of the expedition show that in shipping livestock from Central America to the United States the only diseases of livestock that appear to warrant serious consideration are tick fever, anthrax, blackleg and tetanus, though final conclusions depend on the identification of the parasites collected and also on further studies in Central America. Dr. Hall made his examinations of animal parasites largely at local abattoirs in collaboration with Dr. Augustine.

Revolutions in Nicaragua in May and August interfered considerably with the project on the study of drugs for the removal of worms in which the International Health Board was especially interested and in which Dr. Hall also collaborated. The most interesting development of this work was the discovery that almost 40 per cent. of the soldiers examined and treated by the scientists were infected by one of the dog and cat hookworms not known to be present in man in Central America. The new findings are an important aid to public-health work in the regions visited. The scientists collaborating in this project were Dr. D. L. Augustine, Dr. D. M. Malloy, Don Bernabe Rosales and Dr. Hall.

The trip resulted also in numerous other findings of a specialized and highly technical character, including the efficacy of several new drugs.

THE PORTO RICAN SCHOOL OF TROPICAL MEDICINE

THE School of Tropical Medicine of the University of Porto Rico, founded under the auspices of Colum-

bia University, was opened with formal ceremonies on September 22.

The school, a post-graduate institution, to be maintained jointly by the University of Porto Rico and Columbia University, officially greeted a Columbia delegation consisting of Stephen G. Williams, representing the trustees; Dean Frederick J. E. Woodbridge, representing the university, and Dean William Darrach, representing the College of Physicians and Surgeons. The delegation welcoming them included Dr. Robert A. Lambert, director of the school; Antonio R. Barcelo, president of the trustees of the University of Porto Rico and president of the Porto Rican Senate, and Chancellor Benner.

The principal addresses at the inauguration of the school were given by Horace M. Towner, governor of Porto Rico; Don Barcelo and Dean Darrach.

Associated with Dr. Lambert for the year 1926–27 is a group of thirty-seven professors, instructors and resident and visiting lecturers, eight on full time and the rest on part time. Among them are Dr. Donald H. Cook, from Columbia; Dr. William A. Hoffman, from the Johns Hopkins; Dr. Pedro N. Ortiz, from Boston, Commissioner of Sanitation and Health of Porto Rico; Dr. Antonio Fernos Isern, from Maryland; Dr. Luis G. Hernandez, from Michigan; Dr. George C. Payne, from the Johns Hopkins and the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation; Dr. Bailey K. Ashford, and Dr. Earl B. McKinley and Dr. Calvin B. Coulter, both of Columbia.

Twenty-two courses are being offered in bacteriology, mycology, pathology, chemistry, medical zoology, public health and transmissible diseases, and tropical medicine and surgery.

THE ERIC KNIGHT JORDAN FELLOWSHIPS IN GEOLOGY

DR. AND MRS. DAVID STARR JORDAN have lately established a fund for research fellowships to be known as the Eric Knight Jordan Research Fellowships in Geology. To the sum of $5,000 already turned over to Stanford University the founders expect to add later, and they cherish the hope that friends of their son as well as of themselves may in time make further contributions.

With this gift, two stipulations only are made:

First: that the name of Eric Knight Jordan shall be perpetuated in the foundation, it being believed that he gave promise of becoming a rare worker in geology, his chosen subject;

Second: that the principal sum be forever kept inviolate, only its earnings to be used for any purpose whatsoever.

In accepting the original gift on behalf of the university, President Wilbur made the following comment:

As years go on Eric Jordan's name will be a source of inspiration to many workers in his own field of geology, in which he had already achieved signal successes, although a young man, and in which he gave promise of a brilliant future. The conditions of the gift are, I think, the wisest I have yet seen in any scholarship or fellowship foundation because they permit sufficient elasticity to meet changing conditions.

Knowing that among Stanford men and women there are some who will be glad to join with Dr. and Mrs. Jordan in the purpose specified, we would call attention to this foundation for geological research in memory of a son of Stanford's first president.

JAMES PERRIN SMITH,
ROBERT VAN VLECK ANDERSON,
LEO GEORGE HERTLEIN

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE University of Cambridge will commemorate on October 5 the tercentenary of the death of Francis Bacon. Dr. C. D. Broad will give an address and there will be a reception and dinner at Trinity College. Honorary degrees will be conferred upon Sir Ernest Rutherford and Professor William Holdsworth.

IN connection with the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Johns Hopkins University, a volume of the *Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics* will be issued in honor of Dr. John J. Abel, its founder, who has since 1891 been identified with the university. The volume contains forty articles filling about 550 pages. The contributors are all colleagues, friends or students of Dr. Abel, including among foreign men of science the late Arthur R. Cushny, David I. Macht, Hans H. Meyer, Carl Voegtlin, Archibald V. Hill, P. J. Hanzlik, E. M. K. Geiling and Paul D. Lamson.

THE Russian Academy of Sciences is planning a celebration in honor of the twenty-fifth anniversary of Professor J. P. Pawlow's first announcement in regard to conditioned reflexes.

THE Chicago Chapter of the English Speaking Union arranged a luncheon for Sir James Colquhoun Irvine on September 16.

DR. FRITZ PANETH, professor of inorganic chemistry at the University of Berlin, has been elected non-resident lecturer in chemistry at Cornell University for the coming term.

PROFESSOR V. H. BLACKMAN, Professor F. G. Donnan and Professor F. A. Lindemann have been appointed by Order of Council dated August 20 to be members of the advisory council to the Committee of the Privy Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, in succession to members who have retired on the completion of their terms of office.