tabu, was studied and comparisons made with the limestones of the interior. A brief time was spent in reconnaissance work on the island of Vavau to the north and also at Apia, western Samoa.

A detailed report of the geologic findings will appear as soon as the material has been carefully studied.

BRIEF REPORT OF MALACOLOGICAL WORK

(By J. M. Ostergaard)

During a period of about eight weeks, from July 1 to August 23, 1926, attention was given to the distribution and ecology of the marine Mollusca of the island of Tongatabu and neighboring islands and reefs, and to a comparison of these with those occurring in a fossil state in the limestone of which Tongatabu is composed.

The findings are: that many of the tropical species of the Pacific that occur in the warmer waters of Samoa and Fiji are rare or absent in the southern part of Tonga, while some such forms occur in a fossil state in the limestone of Tongatabu; and that among the recent species inhabiting the shore reefs is an abundance of such forms as occur in the same manner in Hawaii but which are scarce in the intervening warmer zone of the Pacific.

Deductions from these observations are that there was (possibly, in the Pleistocene), a southern expansion of the tropics in the Pacific similar to that of a northern expansion of the same period, so clearly evidenced by a comparison of the fossil marine Mollusca in the limestone of Oahu with those now living in Hawaiian waters.

WILLIAM ALBERT SETCHELL
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE AMERICAN SOLAR OBSERVATORY IN SOUTHWEST AFRICA

THE observatory to measure the heat of the sun established on the top of Mount Brukkaros in Southwest Africa by the National Geographic Society in cooperation with the Smithsonian Institution has been completed and the American observers are moving in.

Mr. A. Dryden, inspector of works under the government of Southwest Africa, with a corps of European and Hottentot laborers, has been at work on the observatory since Dr. Abbot, of the Smithsonian Institution, picked the site last March. The isolated position of Mount Brukkaros in the midst of a desert, the difficulties of getting men and materials up its rocky slopes, the heat and the scarcity of water have put so many obstacles in the way of the work that only the cordial cooperation of the British authorities could have made possible its completion so early.

The natural cave originally selected by Dr. Abbot for the observatory proper had to be abandoned due to the unsuitability of the mountain for tunnelling. A second site suffered the same fate after several hundred tons of loose rock had been removed. The third try proved successful. The site is located on the topmost ridge of the mountain.

To obtain water during the construction of the observatory, the engineers had to sink a well under the site of a dry waterfall. Two tanks excavated in the rocks with a capacity of 3,000 gallons each have been completed to catch the rare rainfall for the observers, but during the six months past no rain has fallen. However, the "rainy season" for Brukkaros occurs in February and March, when it is expected that a sufficient supply will be caught in the tanks to carry the observers through the long dry season. Until the rains come it will be necessary to haul water up on the backs of four small donkeys.

The postal authorities are erecting a special telephone wire connecting the observatory with the railway station at Tses. Over this wire the daily values for the sun's heat will be telephoned to Keetmanshoop and thence cabled to America. For the observers a special house some distance below the observatory inside the mountain has been constructed, while on the plain at the foot of the mountain a garage will house the truck by which supplies will come to them from civilization.

On this site and under these conditions the two American observers, Mr. William H. Hoover and Mr. Frederick Greeley, plan to spend the next three years.

GRANTS FROM THE LAURA SPELMAN ROCKEFELLER MEMORIAL

THE report of the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial shows appropriations to the amount of $7,822,890 made during 1925 in the fields of the social sciences, child study, social work and public welfare.

Appropriations in the field of the social sciences included funds for research assistance, for books and periodicals and for international traveling fellowships. Appropriations were made to universities and other research agencies both in the United States and abroad. A total of $1,198,730 was voted for social science.

The research institutions aided during 1925 include Columbia University, $256,500 over a five-year period; University of Chicago, $61,500 over a three-year period; University of Denver, $37,500 over a five-year period; Economic Foundation, for the National Bureau of Economic Research, $20,000; Northwestern University, for the Institute for Research in Land Economics and Public Utilities, $10,000; Uni-