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.

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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-

versity of North Carolina, for research in race relations, $15,000.

For institutions outside the United States, funds were appropriated to the London School of Economics and Political Science, $155,000; to the Hamburg Institute of International Affairs, $20,000; to the University of Stockholm, $75,000; to the National Institute of Industrial Psychology, $50,000, and to the Royal Anthropological Institute, $17,500.

Aid in the provision of books and periodicals for various European libraries was given through the American Library Association, $7,730, and through the Notgemeinschaft der Deutschen Wissenschaft, $16,500. The Reference Service on International Affairs of the American Library in Paris was voted $12,500.

Appropriations have been made for conferences as follows: American Institute of Cooperation, $12,000; American Historical Association, $25,000, including $15,000 for the Year Book of Historical Bibliography, and for the International Philosophical Congress, $7,500.

During the year the memorial has supported a limited number of research projects in social science through the National Research Council, $41,000; the Social Science Research Council, $30,000, and the American Council of Learned Societies, $15,000. In addition, $5,000 a year for five years was voted to the Social Science Research Council toward its general administrative expense.

The activities of the memorial in granting fellowships in the field of social sciences were somewhat enlarged during the year. At the present time it has representatives in eleven foreign countries and these have been requested to nominate fellows from their own country for study in any country where the memorial is represented. During 1925 thirty-seven fellows were appointed, the sum appropriated for the purpose being $155,000. Fellows who are citizens of the United States and Canada are appointed by the Social Science Research Council; during 1925 fifteen fellows were so appointed, $49,000 being made available for this purpose.

Other appropriations in this general field include Brown University, $27,000, toward a three-year study of cultural diffusion in the United States; Massachusetts Society for Mental Hygiene, $24,000, toward a three-year study of certain social consequences of mental disorders, and the American Law Institute, $60,000, toward an examination of criminal judicial procedure.

PROGRAM OF THE SECTION OF MEDICAL SCIENCES OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

SECTION N (Medical Sciences) will meet Tuesday, December 28. Each year this section has planned meetings to which workers in fields related to medicine may gather to discuss interrelated and border-line problems. Representatives from the fields of anthropology, medical entomology, parasitology, public health and bacteriology, the various divisions of medical science, are invited to bring to the meeting such problems, suggestions, solutions, as will be of interest to this group of allied workers. With increasing specialization, it was felt that there was a correspondingly increased need to compare notes with workers in allied fields. The attendance and the expressed interest has convinced the section committee that this policy meets a very real need.

The forthcoming meeting consists of two sessions. The meeting will begin with the address of the retiring vice-president and chairman of the section, Professor A. J. Carlson, of the University of Chicago, who will discuss "Tendencies in Research of the Bio-Medical Sciences."

The morning symposium will be a joint meeting with Section C (Chemistry) and will deal with the important problem of "Growth in Health and Disease." Dr. Oscar Riddle, of the Station for Experimental Evolution of the Carnegie Institution, will consider new phases of sex in relation to prenatal, postnatal growth and death. Professor Raymond Pearl, of the Johns Hopkins University, will discuss statistical and experimental studies of growth in health and disease. Professor W. J. V. Osterhout, of the Rockefeller Institute, will discuss the same problem from the point of view of the general physiologist. Professor W. W. Swingle, of the State University of Iowa, will present recent findings of the influence of the suprarenal cortex hormones on other ductless glands and on growth.

The afternoon session is to be devoted to the discussion of biological aspects of fundamental medical problems. Dr. C. L. Shear, head pathologist of the U. S. Bureau of Plant Industry, will give the botanical contribution to the symposium. He will discuss botanical pathology in relation to human pathology. Colonel J. F. Siler, of the U. S. Army, will represent the public health and medical worker in his discussion of the transmission of dengue fever by mosquitoes. Dr. L. O. Howard, chief of the Bureau of Entomology, U. S. Department of Agriculture, will present the problems of the entomologist so far as they relate to medicine. The anthropologists are represented by Professor R. Bennett Bean, of the University of Vir-