

are small enough actual counts will be made, and otherwise, estimates of their numbers. Accuracy in these counts and estimates is insisted upon as of prime importance to the purpose of the work.

It is hoped by these censuses to learn not only more than has before been possible to know of the numbers of the ducks, geese, swans and coots, but also additional facts regarding their distribution and their migration routes. By repeating the observations during succeeding years it will be possible to determine whether these birds, so important to the sportsmen and to the country at large, are actually increasing or decreasing. It will also throw light on the causes of local fluctuations that often are puzzling. Each census taker is urged to select the area of great concentration in his locality and one that can be conveniently covered in a single day or a portion of a day.

This project will be inaugurated during the coming August. Cooperation is assured from various agencies of the United States Government, including the National Park Service, Lighthouse Service, Coast Guard, Bureau of Fisheries, Bureau of Reclamation, Office of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Education, and the Forest Service, Weather Bureau and Extension Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. Cooperation has been invited from sportsmen, ornithologists and other interested organizations and individuals.

### THE STUDY OF EPIDEMIC ENCEPHALITIS

DR. WALTER TIMME, chairman of the joint finance committee of the trustees and medical staff of the Neurological Institute at the new Medical Center, New York City, recently made the announcement that to promote research study and treatment of encephalitis J. P. Morgan has made a gift to the institute of \$200,000 to be used for the construction and equipment of a complete hospital floor containing forty-eight beds. The gift was designated as a memorial to Mrs. Morgan, who died of the disease.

The Morgan fund places at the disposal of the medical profession facilities for investigating sleeping sickness and will enable the institute to bring to bear upon this problem the combined resources of the entire Medical Center, now in the process of completion at 165th Street and Broadway.

That the disease of this country and England differs from that found in Africa was pointed out recently by Dr. Aldo Castellani, discoverer of the germ of that disease, who came to this country to organize a department of tropical medicine at Tulane University.

So wide is the territory covered by the malady in its varied forms that it has been apparent for some time to the medical authorities that an international

survey of all expressions of the so-called sleeping sickness would be the only logical method of determining the extent of the germ's range.

Mr. William T. Matheson has provided funds to pay the cost of a survey of encephalitis in this country, Europe and possibly Asia. A commission has been formed with Dr. William Darrach, dean of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, as chairman. The commission includes Dr. Frederick Tilney, professor of neurology in Columbia University; Dr. Hubert Howe, instructor of neurology, secretary; Dr. Haven Emerson and Dr. Frederick Gay, who are both on the faculty of the same college as professors of public health administration and bacteriology, respectively, and Dr. W. J. Park, director of the bureau of laboratories of the New York City Health Department and professor of bacteriology of Bellevue Hospital Medical College. Direction of the research program will be under the supervision of Dr. Josephine B. Neal.

### THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

IN his review of the work of the Rockefeller Foundation, Dr. George E. Vincent, the president, states that during 1926 the foundation, in disbursing \$9,741,474 (1) aided the growth of fourteen medical schools in ten different countries; (2) maintained a modern medical school and teaching hospital in Peking; (3) assisted the development of professional public health training in fifteen institutions in twelve countries and in ten field stations in the United States and Europe; (4) contributed to nurse training schools in the United States, Brazil, France, Poland, Jugoslavia, China, Japan and Siam; (5) sent, as emergency aid, journals, books or laboratory supplies to institutions in twenty European countries; (6) helped twenty-one governments to combat hookworm disease; (7) gave funds to organized rural health services in 244 counties in the United States and to thirty-four districts in twelve other countries; (8) shared in the creation or support of various departments in state or national health services in sixteen countries; (9) cooperated with Brazil in the control of yellow fever, or in precautionary measures against the yellow fever mosquito, in ten states; (10) continued yellow fever surveys and studies in Nigeria and on the Gold Coast; (11) aided efforts to show the possibilities of controlling malaria in nine North American states and in Porto Rico, Nicaragua, Salvador, Argentina, Brazil, Italy, Spain, Poland, Palestine and the Philippine Islands; (12) helped to improve the teaching of physics, chemistry and biology in eleven institutions in China and in the government university of Siam; (13) supported the Institute of Biological Research of the Johns Hopkins University and con-

tributed toward the publication of *Biological Abstracts*; (14) gave funds for biological or mental research at Yale University, the State University of Iowa and the Marine Biological Station at Pacific Grove, California; (15) provided, directly or indirectly, fellowships for 889 men and women from forty-eight different countries, and paid the traveling expenses of sixty-nine officials or professors making study visits either individually or in commissions; (16) helped the Health Committee of the League of Nations to conduct international study tours or interchanges for 120 health officers from forty-eight countries; (17) continued to aid the League's information service on communicable diseases; (18) made surveys of health conditions, medical education, nursing, biology or anthropology in thirty-one countries; (19) lent staff members as consultants and made minor gifts to many governments and institutions; (20) assisted mental hygiene projects both in the United States and in Canada, demonstrations in dispensary development in New York City, and other undertakings in public health, medical education and allied fields.

### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

At a *conversazione* held by the British Institution of Electrical Engineers, on July 7, at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, the president presented to Dr. Elihu Thomson, honorary member of the institution, the Faraday medal which had been awarded to him by the council.

At the fifth centenary of the founding of the University of Louvain, on June 29, honorary degrees were conferred on Dr. Simon Flexner, director of the Rockefeller Institute; on Edward Dean Adams, the electrical engineer, and on Alfred Douglas Flinn, secretary of the American Engineering Society, New York.

At the commencement exercises of the University of Porto Rico held in San Juan, Dr. Juan Iturbe, of Caracas, Venezuela, received the honorary degree of doctor of science.

The president and council of the Royal Society have recommended Mr. Stanley Baldwin, the British prime minister, for election into the society under the special statute which permits the election of persons who, in their opinion, either have rendered conspicuous service to the cause of science or are such that their election would be of signal benefit to the society.

Professor Sir Edward A. Sharpey-Schäfer presided over the section of physiology and biochemistry of the British Medical Association meeting in Edinburgh during the latter part of July.

At the annual election of fellows into the council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, Sir Berkeley Moynihan presiding, there were nine candidates for three vacancies. The following was the result of the election: Sir Cuthbert Wallace (489 votes) and Mr. William Thelwall Thomas, M.B.E. (475 votes), were reelected, and Mr. Hugh Lett (366 votes) was elected a member of the council.

The German Society for Cancer Research on July 4 gave a dinner in honor of Dr. Frederick L. Hoffman in the Zoological Garden, following an extended address by Dr. Hoffman on the utility of statistics in cancer investigations. The presiding officer was Dr. Kraus, president of the society. Among those present were Dr. Otto Warburg, Dr. Hamel, president of the Federal Health Department, Dr. Krohne, minister of public welfare, Dr. Blumenthal and others.

Dr. Edward Kremers, professor of pharmaceutical chemistry in the University of Wisconsin, has resigned to organize and direct research in colloid chemistry for E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, at Wilmington, Delaware.

Theodor Theodorson, of the Johns Hopkins University, under the auspices of the Oil Heating Institute, has been placed in charge of research work on the process of combustion in an oil flame. Mr. Leod D. Becker, managing director of the institute, states that this is the first time that a well-coordinated investigation into the air-fuel ratio, shape and size of combustion chamber, possible draft variations and methods of mixing fuel in domestic oil burners has been planned by non-commercial authorities.

Horace S. Isbell, who has been working on organic gold compounds for the United States Public Health Service at the University of Maryland, has resigned to accept a position as associate chemist with the Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.

Dr. Ella Woods has resigned her position as assistant professor of home economics in the University of Wisconsin in order to take charge of the research work in home economics under the Purnell Grant at the University of Idaho.

At the recent meeting of the trustees of the Beit Memorial Fellowships for Medical Research, Dr. H. H. Dale, head of the department of biochemistry and pharmacology of the Medical Research Council, was appointed a member of the advisory board in succession to the late Professor E. H. Starling.

Dr. B. T. Dickson, professor of botany at McGill University, Montreal, has been appointed by the Australian government chief mycologist of the Council of Scientific Industrial Research.