

It is announced in *Nature* that the British Secretary of State for the Colonies has appointed a committee "to formulate practical proposals for submission to the Colonial Governments to give effect to the resolution for the Colonial Office Conference on the subject of Colonial Agricultural Scientific and Research Services." These proposals are to "include a scheme, based on contributions to a common pool, for the creation of a Colonial Agricultural Scientific and Research Service available for the requirements of the whole Colonial Empire for the support of institutions needed for that purpose, and for the increase of research and study facilities in connection with specialist services of the Colonies generally." The committee is thus constituted: Lord Lovat, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs (chairman), Mr. W. Ormsby-Gore, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies; Sir Graeme Thomson, Governor of Nigeria; Mr. A. S. Jelf, Colonial Secretary, Jamaica; Mr. O. G. R. Williams, Assistant Secretary, Colonial Office; Major R. D. Furse, Private Secretary (Appointments) to the Secretary of State for the Colonies; Sir J. B. Farmer, Dr. A. W. Hill, Mr. F. L. Engledow, and Dr. A. T. Stanton, Chief Medical Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

THE *British Royal Geographical Journal* reports that the Italian National Committee for Geography has decided to promote the creation of a fund for studies in Palestine, which will be devoted mainly to geographical research, whereas the scope of similar institutions which have existed for many years in other countries has been mainly historical and archeological. In accordance with this purpose, the first work to be undertaken by the Italian fund will be an expedition to chart the Dead Sea on a fairly large scale and to map the adjoining portion of the depression in which it lies and of the Jordan trough. In addition to the hydrography and mapping a geological survey and various limnological researches will be carried out. It is also planned to establish a station on the Dead Sea shores for protracted observation of variations in the sea-level and of the meteorological conditions of the basin.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

THE will of Elbert H. Gary, chairman of the board of the United States Steel Corporation, includes bequests for scholarship funds of \$50,000 each to McKendree College, the University of Pittsburgh, Lafayette College, Trinity College, Lincoln Memorial University, Syracuse University, Northwestern University and New York University.

THE campaign to raise \$1,000,000 for the Medical School of Howard University, Washington, has been brought to a successful conclusion. Negroes contributed \$150,259 to the campaign. A tablet bearing the names of fifty-one Negroes whose donations ranged from \$1,000 to \$10,000 will be placed in the new medical school building.

At a meeting of the board of trustees of Ohio State University, on August 4, Dr. John H. J. Upham, Columbus, was appointed acting dean of the Ohio State University College of Medicine. Dr. Eugene F. McCampbell, who was formerly dean, retired on July 1.

DR. ALBERT WARREN STEARNS has been appointed dean of Tufts College Medical School, Boston, and will take up his new work on September 1, succeeding Dr. Stephen Rushmore.

DR. F. M. BALDWIN, who for the past ten years has been in charge of physiology at Iowa State College at Ames, has resigned his professorship to take charge of the department of physiology and become director of experimental marine biology in the University of Southern California at Los Angeles.

M. N. SHORT, of the U. S. Geological Survey, has been appointed lecturer in mining geology at Harvard University during the absence of Professor Gratton on his sabbatical year.

DR. O. H. ELMER, assistant plant pathologist at the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station, has been appointed to succeed Dr. R. P. White as assistant professor of botany and assistant plant pathologist at the Kansas College and Experiment Station.

D. S. MASTERS, of Ohio State University, has been appointed instructor in chemistry and chemical engineering at Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.

DR. J. H. ASHWORTH, of the University of Edinburgh, has been transferred from the chair of zoology to the chair of natural history.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE "WASHBOARD" OR "CORDUROY" EFFECT DUE TO TRAVEL OF AUTOMOBILES OVER DIRT ROADS

THE writer returned recently from a somewhat extended trip by motor car in the Mojave desert, where much of the mileage was over unpaved roads. Of these, two types were noted, first, primitive desert road, which winds among sage and cactus over the long gently sloping alluvial washes characteristic of this desert, apparently following the trail of the first wagon or automobile to mark the way, and second, the worked dirt roads mainly traveled.

The first type, particularly serving as feeders for