A work fraught *ab initio* with disappointment! A quest implicit with futility! Baker found few men so free of ambition for personal glory, so urged by passionate scientific curiosity, that they would suffer his exile unmindful of loneliness, disease, perilous trips, neither seeking nor expecting gratitude, wealth or even academic recognition.

Next to the college he organized, to which come native lads from every part of the islands (Baker could capture their imaginations and stir their hopes as no other member of the faculty could, or bothered to do), Baker was interested chiefly in his entomological and mycological collections.

He had a surpassing knowledge of insects and fungi and he showered the laboratories of collectors in the Orient and Europe with his specimens. His own collections he gave in part to the College of Agriculture of the University of the Philippines, to the University of Hawaii and to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D. C.

Impressive monuments though they are to his intrepid, tireless spirit, the generations whose knowledge and whose living will be richer because of them, can scarcely glean from them a sense of the heroism of this rare and daring personality.

Yet Baker was not coldly impersonal. In strange contradiction to his own stoicism, he was generous and sympathetic with people whose difficulties were not a fraction so severe as his own.

Once he gave up a long-cherished plan for a trip to another more remote part of the islands, because a native boy who was dying of tuberculosis had neither money nor friends to care for him. Baker took the money he had put aside for the trip and sent the lad to the mountains. For his own part, he stayed in his shack and classified his treasured insects.

In his death, science has lost a worker whose invaluable contributions were all too obscured by his indifference to public recognition, and a host of scattered admirers must be reminded of his countless kindnesses.

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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL ELECTRICAL CONGRESSES

THE Electrical Division of the Bureau of Standards has announced that it is represented at two international electrical conferences to be held in Italy this month. The International Electrotechnical Commission meeting will be attended by the Assistant Chief of the Electrical Division, Dr. J. Franklin Meyer, and Dr. J. H. Dellinger. Dr. Meyer will also attend the meeting of the International Commission on Illumination.

The sessions of the Electrotechnical Commission, the Bureau announced orally, were held at Bellagio on Lake Como from September 5 to September 13, with a special trip to Como on September 11, when the centenary of the death of Volta was commemorated in conjunction with the International Congress of Physics. After the technical sessions at Bellagio, the delegates to the meeting made a 10-day tour to various power plants and industrial establishments in Italy, ending at Rome, where a final meeting was held for formal acceptance of the results of the Commission meetings.

According to the preliminary program which has just been issued for the meeting, the Commission dealt with the standardization of electrical machinery and related problems, such as prime movers (steam engines and water turbines). During the meetings at Bellagio, consideration was given to specifications for such prime movers for switches, measuring instruments, insulating oils, lamp bases and holders, traction motors and radio electron tubes. There was also a discussion of the methods of rating the power of electrical machinery, of rating rivers in connection with water-power development, and of an international technical vocabulary covering the field of work of the Commission.

In addition to the government representatives mentioned, the sessions were attended by prominent engineers and executives, including representatives of the General Electric Company, the Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Company, the Edison Electric Illuminating of Boston, the New York Edison Company, the Electrical Testing Laboratories and a number of universities.

The International Commission on Illumination, which met at Bellagio from August 31 to September 3, included national committees in Great Britain, France, Italy, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland and Japan, in addition to the United States. Its work included the unification of practice in making photometric tests, the establishment of standard technical vocabularies, and in general the furtherance of good practice in lighting in the several countries.

The Bellagio meeting considered several technical problems—a primary standard of light, standard methods of comparing lights of different colors and the investigation of glare. Other matters dealing more directly with practice include proposed specifications for electric lamps, for street lighting and for the regulation of automobile headlights. There was also some general discussion of the teaching of the science and art of illumination and of the activities of lamp manufacturers in Europe and in America looking toward the improvement of illumination.

In accordance with the action taken at the last

plenary session of the commission held in Geneva in 1924, it is planned that a full session of the commission will be held in the United States next year.

THE FIELD MUSEUM PALEONTOLOGICAL EXPEDITION IN SOUTH AMERICA

PROFESSOR ELMER S. RIGGS, leader of the Second Field Museum—Captain Marshall Field Paleontological Expedition of 1926–1927 to Argentina—states in a report recently received that the expedition finished its first year's work about May 1 and returned to Buenos Aires. The itinerary of the year included seven months collecting in the Province of Catamarca and a somewhat shorter period of similar work in the Province of Buenos Aires.

The object of this expedition was to make collections of fossil mammals from the Pliocene and the Pleistocene formations of Argentina, and so to supplement the work of the First Expedition of 1923–24, which was directed toward the earlier Deseado and Santa Cruzean formations.

The expedition, like the first, was conducted under the leadership of Professor Riggs, associate curator of paleontology of the museum, and its personnel included Robert C. Thorne, of the museum staff; Dr. Rudolph Stahlecker, of Tübingen, Germany, as collector and stratigrapher, and local help employed in the regions worked.

The first base of operation was established at Andalgala, Catamarca. From there the party proceeded by pack-train across the Sierra Aconquija to the Valley of Santa Maria, in the vicinity of the pueblo San Jose. There camp was established and field operations begun in May, 1926. In this mild climate, at an altitude of 6,000 feet, it was possible to carry on the work of collecting throughout the winter months.

On the eastern side of the Valley of Santa Maria and abutting the foot of the Sierra Aconquija was encountered the series of sedimentary rock-strata which has been designated as Catamarcense and referred to the Araucanian Period (Pliocene). The entire series of clays and sandstones here exposed has a thickness of about 6,000 feet. It is highly inclined and complicated by local folding. A part of this series has been known to be fossil-bearing since 1892, when fossil mammals were discovered there by an expedition of the La Plata Museum, under the direction of Professor Adolfo Methfessel. Collections made by these gentlemen and by later Argentine collectors have been studied by Ameghino and others. They form an important part of the recorded Pliocene mammals of South America.

The better-known localities of Entre Rios, Rio Yapis and of Teopunca were gone over by the Field Museum collectors with gratifying success. Specimens of glyptodonts and of invertebrate fossils were discovered in the lowermost strata of the series. Careful sections were made of the entire formation and records kept of the faunas of the several horizons. Search for fossils was then extended over some sixty miles of these exposures in the Santa Maria Valley. Few fossils were found outside the localities explored by the Argentine collectors.

Convinced that Araucanian deposits recorded from widely separated districts of Catamarca belonged to the same period as that of the Santa Maria Valley, and acting upon apparently reliable information derived from local sources, the party pushed southward and westward into the Department of Belen. In the vicinity of Puerto Corral Quemada was found the formation Catamarcense exposed in a magnificent series, having a thickness of 7,000 feet. A fossil fauna similar to that known from the Santa Maria Valley was also recognized. This fauna was further supplemented in the upper series by more modern types of glyptodonts, armadillos and macrauchenids, which indicated a nearer approach to Pleistocene time. Among this strictly indigenous South American fauna there were recognized no immigrants of North American or European type.

At Puerto Corral Quemada a new base of operations was established. Three months of intensive collecting, with accompanying stratigraphic studies and records, brought together a wealth of fossil mammals. The collection from the two localities, while including only a few mountable skeletons, is rich in skulls and in specimens of the dermal armaments of glyptodonts and armadillos. Other groups represented by fine specimens are the typotheres, the protypotheres, the toxodonts, the macrauchenids, the gravigrade sloths, the marsupial carnivores, rodents of great variety, several large birds, a single great tortoise and a batrachian. The number totals 188 specimens, representing more than thirty known genera.

At the close of this collecting, the expedition was visited in the field by a delegation from the Argentine Museums of Buenos Aires, who leniently and courteously applied the Argentine law of embargo on the exportation of such collections.

With the approach of the rainy season in Catamarca, the party proceeded to the southern coast of the Province of Buenos Aires in quest of the great Pleistocene mammals of the pampean formations. This field, long known to be rich in fossil mammals, was found to offer but limited exposures available as collecting grounds. Moreover, the coast-line and the banks of a small number of rivers which have cut through the fertile wheat-belt of Argentina are sys-