

Hopkins under the eminent Greek scholar, Dr. Gildersleeve. In 1899 he received from Columbia University the degree of doctor of philosophy, and in 1904 from Hamilton College that of doctor of science.

From 1882 to 1895 (when he became professor of natural science at Hunter College) Dr. Burgess taught botany in the Washington, D. C., high schools and from 1880 to 1895 at the Martha's Vineyard summer institute. He was instructor at Johns Hopkins in 1885. He was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the New York Academy of Sciences, the American Anthropological Association (a founder), the Society of American Folk-lore, the Century Club of New York, the Torrey Botanical Club, of which he was president, 1912-13, the New York Botanical Garden Corporation (a director, 1912-13).

Dr. Burgess's friends will cherish most the memory of him in his Yonkers home, Sweetbriarside. His marriage to Irene S. Hamilton, of Fredonia, N. Y., was one of rare companionship of spirit. Their garden, with its Shakespeare plot, its Wordsworth bed, its Keats corner, its Hellenica, its plants of western New York, its lily pool filled with native and exotic lilies, its dozen varieties of hybrid sweetbriars, its eighty or more different conifers, its wealth of tulips and roses, has been a delight to all flower lovers and is the expression of the lifelong devotion of the owners.

Dr. Burgess was modern in his conceptions of biology, yet from training and conviction he was deeply religious. Of the views of others, who differed, he was very tolerant: "Truth can not contradict itself," he was wont to say. His reverent attitude toward nature is reminiscent of two such different masters as Charles Darwin and Louis Agassiz. More accurately, Dr. Burgess recalls J. S. Henslow, of Cambridge, the wise professor of botany "who knew every branch of science," the beloved mentor with whom Darwin took long walks, until he became known as "the man who walks with Henslow."

A portion of Darwin's tribute to Henslow, as Romanes has pointed out, reflects the character of Darwin, but it is also an excellent likeness of Edward Burgess.

Nothing could be more simple, cordial, and unpretending than the encouragement which he afforded to all young naturalists. I soon became intimate with him, for he had a remarkable power of making the young feel completely at ease with him; though we were all awestruck with the amount of his knowledge. Before I saw him, I heard one young man sum up his attainments by simply saying that he knew everything. When I reflect how immediately we felt at perfect ease with a man older, and in every way so immensely our superior, I

think it was as much owing to the transparent sincerity of his character as to his kindness of heart; and, perhaps, even still more, to a highly remarkable absence in him of all self-consciousness. One perceived at once that he never thought of his own varied knowledge or clear intellect, but solely on the subject in hand. Another charm, which must have struck every one, was that his manner to old and distinguished persons and to the youngest student was exactly the same: and to all he showed the same winning courtesy. In short, no man could be better informed to win the entire confidence of the young, and to encourage them in their pursuits. It always struck me that his mind could not be even touched by any paltry feeling of vanity, envy, or jealousy. With all this equability of temper and remarkable benevolence, there was no insipidity of character. A man must have been blind not to have perceived that beneath this placid exterior there was a vigorous and determined will. When principle came into play, no power on earth could have turned him one hair's breadth.¹

Darwin adds, "I owe more than I can express to this excellent man."

In our strenuous era of high pressure research, when beginners emerge from courses in test-tube biology—*à la mode* and labeled "modern"—with a somewhat cynical and suspicious attitude toward Nature in her visible forms, it is perhaps permitted one to reflect upon the passing of the fine art of instilling an appreciation of natural history, and to wonder if youngsters of the future will experience the intellectual high adventure which has been the good fortune of those who have walked with Henslow, Agassiz, Jordan, Dudley, Burgess, Comstock and many another of the past or passing generation, too numerous to name.

WALTER K. FISHER

HOPKINS MARINE STATION

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE OXFORD EXPEDITION TO GREENLAND

THE Godthaab district of Greenland has been chosen as the scene of the Oxford University Greenland expedition of 1928, which has been initiated by the Oxford University Exploration Club, and has for its objects the continuation of the biological work begun in the Oxford Arctic expeditions of 1921, 1923 and 1924. A correspondent of the London *Times* writes that this area has been chosen as representing the region (to which the barren lands of Canada belong) where biological surveys have only just passed through their preliminary stages. Here a comparative survey of the wild life and the conditions con-

¹ "Life and Letters of Charles Darwin." Edited by Francis Darwin, Vol. 1, p. 186.

trolling it can be worked out by the ornithologist, the botanist and entomologist of the expedition, as a contribution towards researches in economic zoology and botany, which are necessary for the solution of important problems of human economy.

The study of malaria, of crop pests, of the means of developing and controlling the natural resources of countries, requires a clear understanding of the laws governing the interrelations of animals of all kinds and especially the regulation of their numbers. The data are not yet available for a complete understanding of these problems, but a preliminary contribution to them can be made through the working out of principles among a limited class of life in a place which the short northern season, the small number of species involved, and the absence of human interference make particularly favorable for the purpose.

Dr. T. G. Longstaff has consented to act as the leader of the party, which will consist of eight members. The expedition proceeds under the official authority of the university and with the official support of the Royal Geographical Society. It is assured not only of all facilities from the Danish government, but also of the benefit of the experience of the best Danish naturalists and explorers. The university has formally voted £50 towards the expenses of the expedition and the rest of the funds have been supplied by the members and their friends.

The personnel of the expedition will be as follows:

T. G. Longstaff, naturalist and topographer.
Major R. W. G. Hingston, entomologist.
E. M. Nicholson, ornithologist.
C. G. Trapnell, botanist.
W. G. H. D. Crouch, photographer and quartermaster.
B. D. Nicholson, ornithologist and assistant surveyor.
Sir John Hanham, assistant botanist.
H. P. Hanham, assistant ornithologist.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICANISTS

ARRANGEMENTS are being made for the meetings of the twenty-third session of the International Congress of Americanists, to be held during the week beginning September 17 in New York. The invitations for the Americanists to meet in New York were extended at the twenty-second session, which was held in Rome in September, 1926, by the American Museum of Natural History, Columbia University, the Brooklyn Museum, the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, the American Geographical Society, the American Ethnological Society, the New York Academy of Sciences and the Archeological Institute of America.

The headquarters of the congress will be at the American Museum of Natural History, where the opening and closing meetings will be held. During the week there will also be meetings at Columbia University, the Museum of the American Indian, the Heye Foundation and the Brooklyn Museum. Prominent students of American Indian life and related topics will be in attendance from Europe and Latin America. The papers and discussions will deal with aboriginal inhabitants of the Americas, the origin and distribution of their cultures and matters of history, geology and geography bearing on the native populations.

FRANZ BOAS,

Chairman of the Organization Committee

P. E. GODDARD, *Secretary,*

*American Museum of Natural History,
New York City*

BUILDING PLANS OF THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

PLANS for the construction of nine new sections to the American Museum of Natural History, to be completed by the seventieth anniversary of the institution in 1939, are contained in a report made to the trustees by President Henry Fairfield Osborn. In addition, a new building to be known as the Roosevelt Memorial, costing \$3,250,000, is to be erected as a new entrance hall at the intersection of Seventy-ninth Street and Central Park West.

Two of the new wings, the African hall, costing \$1,350,000, and the power and service section, costing \$900,000, together with the Roosevelt Memorial are to be constructed in the immediate future. The other sections, the building of which will be spread out over the next eleven years, are to be the astronomic hall, to cost \$1,689,525; Australian hall, \$1,006,549; middle American hall, \$2,306,592; south oceanic hall, \$1,006,549; lecture amphitheater hall, \$2,994,529; preparation and storage hall, \$500,000. The complete cost of the new sections and the Roosevelt Memorial will be \$15,004,744.

Dr. Osborn gave a *résumé* of the history of the museum since 1869, the year of its founding, and made note of the fact that only \$8,390,599.68 had been spent on the institution since that time, and when added to the proposed expenditures will make a grand total of \$23,394,343.68 for the nineteen section building as planned.

Dr. Osborn added that since 1902 more than \$23,000,000 in gifts and bequests had been received by the museum. In this summary of the history of the institution, the president recalled that in 1869 New York had no museum of any kind, while such institutions flourished in Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, Washington and in all the European capitals.