

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE AWARD OF PRIZES AND GRANTS BY THE BELGIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

ACCORDING to *Nature*, the following prize awards have recently been announced by the Belgian Royal Academy of Sciences: Maurice Nuyens (1,500 francs), for his memoir on the resolution of problems with axial symmetry in general relativity; A. Monoyer (1,500 francs), for anatomical and ethological researches on one or more plant species interesting through their mode of life; Théophile Gluge prize (1,300 francs), to L. Dautrebande for his work on the study of gaseous metabolism in man in health and disease; P. J. and Ed. van Bereden prize (3,400 francs), to Hans de Winiwarter for his work published during 1924-26; Adjutant H. Lefèvre prize (1,500 francs), to Hélène Massart for her researches on the phenomena of secretion in plants; Ad. Wetrems prize (7,500 francs), to Louis Verlaine for his studies on instinct and intelligence in Hymenoptera Agathon de Potter Foundation. The following grants have been made: W. Conrad (2,000 francs), for the continuation of his researches on the lower organisms, particularly on the Belgian fresh-water flagellates; J. Pasteels (500 francs), to continue at Wimereux his researches on the cyto-physiological action of the dilution of seawater on the eggs of lamellibranchs; the Jean Mascart experimental garden (5,000 francs), to continue a series of experiments on plant physiology commenced by the late Jean Mascart; E. Zunz (6,000 francs), for the purchase of instruments necessary to the continuation of his researches on glycaemia; Th. De Donder (7,500 francs), for the publication of his "Théorie des invariants intégraux"; Gilta (1,000 francs), for the publication of plates of chemical crystallography; E. De Wildemann (3,000 francs), for assisting the publication of parts of volume 4 of "Plantæ Bequærtianæ"; Comité national de Géodésie (5,000 francs), to enable it to print the reports of 1920-25 and 1926, on the geodesic work done by the Institute cartographique militaire since the war; Beeli (500 francs), for the execution of plates relating to the mycological flora of the Congo. Jean Servais Stas Prizes to Lucie De Brouckère, Léon Navez, Louis Henry; the Decennial prize of the mineralogical sciences to Armand Renier.

### EXHIBIT OF THE BINGHAM OCEANOGRAPHIC COLLECTION AT YALE UNIVERSITY

THE Bingham oceanographic collection, which consists of over 3,000 items, and which was collected by Harry Payne Bingham, of New York City, has

been placed in the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale University, and was exhibited in connection with the university's 227th commencement activities. This collection of marine animals, containing over one hundred new species, is so arranged that it may be of utmost benefit to students and the public.

Three oceanographic expeditions by Mr. Bingham and a group of scientists were required to bring together this material. The first expedition visited West Indian waters and the coast of the British Honduras. Efforts were chiefly directed toward making a collection of the less common fishes and other animals in the shallower waters, and of the various organisms which inhabit the sea-bottom to a depth of about three thousand feet. As a result of this expedition, twenty new species of shallow water fishes and seventeen new species of crustaceans from various depths have already been described. The second expedition went to Perlas Islands in the Bay of Panama and the Gulf of California, the latter a comparatively little explored faunistic region. Many valuable items were found there, of which already fifteen species have proved to be new.

The third expedition conducted by Mr. Bingham, considered the most successful of the three, visited the waters about the Bahama and Bermuda Islands. As a result of this expedition, thirty new species have already been described, and it is expected that many more will be found.

About one hundred and twenty fishes representative of the regions visited by Mr. Bingham during his expeditions have been mounted by Francis West, who accompanied him on these expeditions, and whose work is well known in American museums. Wilfred S. Bronson, also a member of the expeditions, has made over fifty oil and water paintings in color of the fishes and other animals as they were taken fresh from the water. In his paintings Mr. Bronson has worked on the relationships of the fishes to each other and to their surroundings, with the result that each picture serves almost as a habitat group. Over one hundred species of fishes are represented in these paintings.

In order that his collection could be studied and the results published, Mr. Bingham has placed in charge of his collections Alfred E. Parr, a Norwegian oceanographer and ichthyologist, who has been appointed to the staff of Peabody Museum as assistant curator of zoology in charge of the Bingham Oceanographic Collection. It is planned not only to continue the taxonomic work but to take up investigations in other important biologic aspects of oceanography.