

has been generous in supplying to visiting scientists every facility for the performance of their work, and the director of the station is keenly interested in the assembling and publication of information regarding the fauna and flora of the region.

From the first of December, 1927, until the end of March, 1928, the writer was engaged in a botanical survey of the Lancetilla Valley. During the same winter Messrs. Peters and Bangs, of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, made a comprehensive collection of the birds of the vicinity. It is expected that reports upon these collections will be published soon, thus making a substantial contribution to the knowledge of the local natural history.

For botanical work, I can testify that the Lancetilla Valley is unexcelled on the Atlantic coast of Central America. The flora is a rich and varied one, including representatives of most of the groups to be expected in the *tierra caliente*. The tree flora is unusually large, and there is a good representation of palms, ferns and cryptogams. Fungi are so conspicuously abundant that their study undoubtedly would have profitable results.

Virgin forest may be reached on foot in ten minutes from the station. On the hills three more or less distinct belts of vegetation may be recognized. Along the streams there is a profusion of aquatic plants, and about Tela there is an interesting strand vegetation, with a few mangrove swamps.

The whole of Honduras is practically unknown, so far as the fauna and flora are concerned, and any collector is certain to find here an abundance of new forms in any group. No better field for research work can be found along the Central American coast, and the choice of the Lancetilla Experiment Station as a base for field work can not be recommended too highly to those concerned in the study of the natural history of Middle America.

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FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

SUMMER WORK OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

FORTY or more members of the Geological Survey, with their assistants, are now scattered throughout the United States, making field studies to serve as a basis for determining the probable mineral character and value of the public domain which remains under the care of the Department of the Interior and that furnish other geologic information of use to the public.

Four geologic groups are in the State of Montana. Two of these, under the direction of geologists ex-

perienced in the field of metals, are conducting surveys in the region tributary to Helena. This project is supported by local cooperation. In southern and east-central Montana two geologic groups are mapping the coal fields of that portion of the state.

In central Idaho one geologic party is studying the deposits of metals which are associated with the great granite intrusions of the central part of the state. Another geologic party, in eastern Idaho, is continuing the mapping of the phosphate deposits.

In Nevada three areas are under examination—one, the Charleston Peak region west of Las Vegas; another, the Ivanpah region immediately to the south; and a third, the Silver Peak area west of Goldfield. Associated with the geologists engaged upon these projects are two survey paleontologists, who are collecting the fossil evidences of extinct life.

In northern California, in Plumas County, an examination of the copper deposits is under way.

In southeastern Utah systematic work is being done along the canyons tributary to the San Juan and the Colorado, extending westward to include Navajo Mountain. It is a part of the systematic study of the plateaus of the canyon region directed to a determination of the structure of the rocks underlying these plateaus.

The coals of the great San Juan Basin and other resources in New Mexico are being investigated. In the Magdalena mining district cooperative work is being carried on with the director of the State Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources. Work on the Santa Rita mining district, begun some years ago, is being brought to completion, and attention is being given to the existence of potash deposits in the great salt basin of the southeastern part of the state.

In Colorado an extensive cooperative project, begun two or three years ago, is being continued energetically. The expenses of this work are shared between the state and the United States Geological Survey. Five geologists from the latter organization are assigned to the study and two topographers are making the base maps which the geologists need. In this work an attempt is being made to apply geologic research directly to the problem of ore finding.

In Texas progress is being made on the slow task of preparing a new geologic map of the state on a scale that will be adequate for the use particularly of the petroleum industry. This work was begun three or four years ago and may take as many more years for its completion. Texas is an empire in itself, covering more than 265,000 square miles. The preparation of a detailed geologic map is therefore a task of much magnitude.

In addition to the cooperative work on the state map in Arkansas, another cooperative project there

involves the study of possible lead and zinc deposits in the northern part of the state. Cooperative work is also under way with the Illinois Geological Survey, with which the Federal Geological Survey cooperates extensively in the preparation of topographic maps, and less extensively in a study of the geologic problems of the state. The iron ores of the south are receiving more or less constant attention. An agreement has been entered into with the Geological Survey of Alabama for a cooperative study of the ores of that state. A review is under way of the iron ore situation in Virginia and some of those of Tennessee are treated in reports about to be issued. Pennsylvania, New York and New England are not neglected in this work. To each of these states or groups of states the survey has assigned members of its geologic staff who are at work on research problems. Among the problems thus attacked is that of the mild earth tremors, a number of which have been felt in New England in recent years.

THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PURE AND APPLIED CHEMISTRY

FROM an account in *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* of the ninth conference we learn that the following officers were elected: *President*, Emar Biilmann, of Denmark; *Vice-presidents*, d'Artigas, Behal, Bodtker, E. Mond, Parravano, Reese, Sakurai and Swietoslowski. Of these, Behal, Bodtker, Mond and Sakurai were selected by lot to serve two years. Dr. Mond was chosen to be the successor to the president in case the necessity should arise. Jean Gérard was reelected secretary.

The next meeting will be held at Liège, Belgium, in 1930. It will consist of both a Conference of the International Union and a Congress of Industrial Chemistry organized by the Société de Chimie Industrielle, of which Jean Gérard is vice-president. The invitation to convene at Liège was offered in the broadest terms to include chemists of all nations, whether at present adherents to the union or not. It is expected that the 1932 meeting will be a large International Congress of Chemistry, organized at Madrid by the chemists of Spain in association with a committee of the International Union.

Engineering and Industrial Chemistry gives the following account of the organization of the union:

During the past few years many criticisms of the International Union have been expressed, especially in England and America. The need of a reorganization of its activities has been recognized for some time by several of those most interested in its success. Suggestions along this line were made by Dr. Cohen, the president, at the Washington meeting two years ago, and preliminary modification of its statutes were offered last year at

Warsaw. During the present meeting the principal business was the further consideration of these changes and the adoption of the new statutes and regulations.

The result has been to alter considerably the character of the organization. In the past its efforts have been devoted principally to securing international agreement upon subjects of common interest, but hereafter its activities will also be directed towards the organization of international congresses of chemists. Future meetings will be held at two-year intervals, and each alternate one will be an international congress organized on an elaborate scale.

A marked desire to improve the character of the union in another direction was also expressed. This was to enlarge its international character by encouraging the entrance of those nations not at present affiliated with the union. Toward this end the following distinguished chemists were present at The Hague as invited guests: from Germany, Professors Bodenstein, Haber, Markwald and Stock; from Austria, Professor Wegscheider; and from Russia, Professors Ipatieff, Schilow, Stepanow, Tschitschibabin and Zelensky.

As a further mark of the desire of the union to receive into its membership the countries not at present represented, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the council: "The International Union of Chemistry is happy to salute the chemists of Germany, Austria and Russia, who have come as guests to the conference at The Hague. It hopes that the chemical groups in these countries will soon organize themselves in the manner leading to their admission into the union."

Although Dr. Cohen and other members have favored the above improvements for some time, it was the English delegation which insisted most strongly on their immediate adoption. In fact, Sir William Pope, in explaining why the dues of Great Britain had not been paid, said it was the result of their dissatisfaction with the union, and that no further payments would be made until assurance was obtained that the meetings would be organized in a manner worthy of scientists. He asked what would have been the opinion of van't Hoff of an international gathering of chemists at which less than twenty papers describing advances in the science had been provided. Although the English were not present last year at Warsaw to aid in the inauguration of the changes, they came to The Hague fully determined to see them put through.

According to the new statutes, the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry has for its objects: (1) The organization of a permanent cooperation between the chemical associations of the adherent countries; (2) the coordination of their scientific and technical means of action; (3) contribution to the advancement of chemistry in all the extent of its domain, notably the holding of conferences and congresses. It has its provisional headquarters at Paris.

THE MARTIN MALONEY MEMORIAL CLINIC OF THE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

THE University of Pennsylvania broke ground on September 13 for the erection of the new Martin Ma-