

**MORPHOLOGY** (including **ANATOMY**): Professor F. E. Fritsch, Danesmount, Tower Hill, Dorking, Surrey.

**TAXONOMY** and **NOMENCLATURE**: Dr. A. W. Hill, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

**PLANT GEOGRAPHY** and **ECOLOGY**: Professor A. G. Tansley, Department of Botany, The University, Oxford.

**GENETICS** and **CYTOLOGY**: Professor Sir John Farmer, Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, S.W. 7.

**PLANT PHYSIOLOGY**: Dr. F. F. Blackman, Botany School, Cambridge.

**MYCOLOGY** and **PLANT PATHOLOGY**: Dr. E. J. Butler, Imperial Bureau of Mycology, 17, Kew Green, Kew, Surrey.

As far as possible the program for each section will consist of papers given at the invitation of the sectional subcommittee; arrangements for general discussions will also probably be made by the sectional subcommittees.

#### THE GORGAS MEMORIAL INSTITUTE OF TROPICAL AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

DR. HERBERT CHARLES CLARK, director of laboratories and preventive medicine of the United Fruit Company, has been appointed director of the new Gorgas Memorial Laboratory of the Gorgas Memorial Institute of Tropical and Preventive Medicine, to be established on January 1 in Panama.

The institute has been established by act of congress as a governmental tribute to the public health and sanitation work conducted by the late General William C. Gorgas on the Isthmus of Panama, which made possible the construction of the Panama Canal. Dr. Clark, who spent several years under General Gorgas in the Canal Zone, will carry on research work to make possible a greater economic development of tropical America.

Congress last spring authorized a permanent appropriation of \$50,000 a year for the maintenance of the institute. Latin-American governments have been invited to contribute, but it has been stipulated by congress that the total of their contributions should not exceed 75 per cent. of the total contributed by the United States. The participating Latin-American governments are to be represented with the United States on the board of directors. President Coolidge is honorary president of the institute and Rear Admiral Cary T. Grayson is the president.

The republic of Panama has ceded a site for a permanent building for the laboratory, but temporary headquarters will be established in a building newly constructed by that government for a medical school.

Dr. Clark is reported to have made the following statement:

The Gorgas Memorial Laboratory will be an active international coordinating center for research work in

diseases which interfere with the economic development of the tropical countries in the Western Hemisphere. Its initial work will be the study of certain phases of malarial control that need development if big corporations from the temperate zone are to go into the tropics.

The greatest loss of labor in the coastal plains of tropical America is from malaria, which is the biggest economic factor among the diseases that belong down there. We expect to study the human carriers of malaria—people who, even after they have been treated and apparently cured, continue to carry the parasites in their seed stages.

We also intend to study the night habits of the mosquitos that feed upon human beings and which do the most in carrying malaria. We need to know more about how far they may go in their flight to lay their eggs.

We shall also work on two special problems in tropical diseases peculiar to Haiti and Colombia. We shall have visitors who will work on special problems, such as a study of various species of monkeys to see whether they carry any malarial or intestinal diseases affecting man.

#### THE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY AT COLD SPRING HARBOR

At the annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the Long Island Biological Association, held December 4, several matters of general scientific interest were reported. A policy giving primary consideration to research, including its active pursuit throughout the year by means of a permanent staff, has been formally accepted. Steps have already been taken toward carrying the policy into effect with the appointment to the staff of Dr. Hugo Fricke, formerly director of the department of biophysics of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. The personnel of technicians and assistants has been increased, and equipment for research in biophysics, including work with X-rays and high frequencies, is being installed.

It is planned to receive scientists enjoying sabbatical or other leave from other institutions, who wish to carry on research at the Biological Laboratory at any season of the year. Such workers may apply to the laboratory for financial support during the period of residence, the aim being to aid them to take advantage of the opportunities of a leave of absence without too great financial burden. This plan will apply to American or European scientists wishing to spend part of the year in America, and part of the year in Europe, as well as to those wishing to spend the whole year at the laboratory. Dr. Felix Bernstein, director of the Institut für mathematische Statistik of the University of Göttingen, is the first to take advantage of this opportunity. His residence at the laboratory will begin in February, 1929.

The new policy plans a decrease in the number of students admitted to the biological laboratory at Cold Spring Harbor during the summer. Students in each

course will be expected to carry on research, under the direction of members of the staff, as well as engage in the usual work of the course.

During the fiscal year 1928, the assets of the laboratory have been increased by about \$50,000. This includes the new George Lane Nichols Memorial Laboratory.

#### THE AMERICAN NATURE STUDY SOCIETY

THE meeting of the American Nature Study Society, which is to be held in connection with the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, December 27-31, will have its sessions in the American Museum of Natural History in the Reptile Hall. One of the outstanding features of this meeting will be the fact that the program will cover five days instead of two, as has been the custom heretofore. The five days will be full ones. The New York group will be well represented by speakers who are educators as well as scientists. The nature program from the point of view of the city person, the nature program which is state wide, will be discussed by men and women from many states. The contributions made by various organizations will be discussed by representatives of these organizations. A sight-seeing trip to places of interest around New York to nature leaders will be given on Sunday. Representative nature rooms in the public schools will be opened for inspection to the guests of the society.

Another feature will be the dinner which is to be held at the Hotel McAlpin on the evening of December 28th at 6:30 o'clock. To this dinner have been invited men and women who have made outstanding contribution to nature literature, nature education, nature music and nature painting. A distinguished grand opera singer and voice teacher will sing, and a widely known Japanese poet will chant some of his nature poems in his native language. Mr. William Finley, lecturer and photographer of wild life, will lecture on "Kindred of the Wild."

The president of the society will give the address of welcome on the afternoon of December 27. Liberty Hyde Bailey and Anna Botsford Comstock will speak and messages from some of the pioneer workers in the field of nature education will be read.

At the meeting on December 27-31, at the American Museum of Natural History, there will be a discussion of science teaching in junior and senior high schools and present-day trends in elementary nature teaching. The meetings will be summarized by persons who will be asked to report the following mornings. The contributions made to nature education by various organizations, such as Museums, Botanic Gardens, Zoological Gardens, Children's Laboratories, School Nature

Leagues, etc., will be discussed on the morning of December 31.

BERTHA CHAPMAN CADY,  
*President*

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NEW YORK

#### THE NEW YORK MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

SCIENCE for November 30 was a special issue containing the full preliminary announcement of the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the associated scientific societies, to be held in New York City from December 27 to January 2. It may be well to summarize in the issue of SCIENCE that will reach members shortly before the meeting some announcements that it may be desirable to have in mind.

This will be the eighty-fifth meeting of the American Association and the fifth New York meeting. It will be the fourth of the larger convocation week meetings held successively at intervals of four years in Washington, New York and Chicago.

The meeting is under the presidency of Professor Henry Fairfield Osborn, president of the American Museum of Natural History. The retiring president is A. A. Noyes, of the California Institute of Technology. The chairman of the local committee is Professor George B. Pegram, the secretary is Professor Sam Trelease, the honorary chairman is Professor M. I. Pupin, all of Columbia University. The honorary reception committee includes representatives of sixty scientific institutions and societies of New York City.

The main registration headquarters will be in University Hall, Columbia University. Branch registration offices will be maintained at the American Museum of Natural History, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the United Engineering Societies Building and the American Geographical Society Building.

Railway rates at one fare and a half are obtainable through certificate, which must be secured on purchasing tickets and later validated at the association headquarters.

The hotel headquarters are the Lincoln Hotel, 8th Avenue and 44th Street. The associated societies have various hotel headquarters. Reservations should be made in advance.

The scientific exhibit will be held in University Hall, Columbia University, and will be a continuous conversation throughout the meeting.

The executive committee of the council will hold its first session at the Hotel Lincoln on Thursday morning at 10 o'clock. The council of the association will hold its first and main session at the Lincoln Hotel at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. The secretaries' conference with dinner will be held at the Hotel McAlpin on Sunday evening. The academy conference will be held late on Thursday afternoon, followed by a dinner.