

ation of the earth's electric field. This fundamental result was deduced by him largely from his discussions of the work at sea by the *Carnegie* and he later corroborated this conclusion by extensive investigations of results at land stations over the entire globe. As Hanna research fellow Dr. Mauchly received his degree as doctor of philosophy from the University of Cincinnati in 1913.

It is planned to develop an arboretum along the shores of Lake Wingra at Madison, where plants and game native to Wisconsin will be conserved. Through the efforts of Mr. M. B. Olbrich, regent of the university, and others interested in the project, the acquirement of land for the project has begun. Plans may later be expanded to include development of a unique laboratory and outdoor museum of wild life.

L. W. NUTTALL has given his large collection of fungi, together with a portion of his mycological library, to the University of West Virginia. The fungi, comprising about 1,600 species, were collected in Fayette County in the vicinity of Nuttallsburg, West Virginia, during the years 1890-1898. The collection is especially rich in type material of new species named by J. B. Ellis. The University of West Virginia contemplates exchanging duplicate material of the collection with other institutions.

LEADING manufacturers and bankers appeared recently before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs to advocate the Porter resolution, calling upon the President to call an international conference for calendar reform or to accept an invitation to such a conference offered by other nations. The benefits of a fixed and uniform calendar were told by George Eastman, of Rochester, N. Y., chairman of the National Committee on Calendar Simplification.

THE United States Civil Service Commission announces the following open competitive examinations: Toxicologist, \$3,800 to \$4,400 a year; associate toxicologist, \$3,200 to \$3,700 a year; assistant toxicologist, \$2,600 to \$3,100 a year. Applications for the above-named positions must be on file with the Civil Service Commission at Washington, D. C., not later than January 23. The examinations are to fill vacancies in the Bureau of Mines, Department of Commerce, for duty in Washington, D. C., or in the field; in the Chemical Warfare Service, War Department, for duty at Edgewood Arsenal, Edgewood, Maryland, and vacancies occurring in positions requiring similar qualifications.

*Health News*, published weekly by the New York State Department of Health, reports that Dr. Simon

Flexner, director of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research and chairman of the Public Health Council, is very desirous of being notified of outbreaks of influenza, especially in institutions, in order that the infection may be studied from a laboratory standpoint. The laboratory of the State Department of Health is also prepared to undertake this work.

AN Associated Press dispatch, dated December 23, from Minneapolis, reads: "Because at no time in the past four years has the University of Minnesota indicated whether it would accept a proposed \$1,000,000 gift from the Rockefeller Foundation, that organization has withdrawn the offer. The gift was offered to the state university in 1924 to establish a medical center combining the work of both the University Hospital and the Minneapolis General Hospital. The decision of the Rockefeller Foundation was contained in a letter from President Lotus B. Coffman, of the university, to the local Board of Public Welfare. The letter quoted Dr. George E. Vincent, president of the foundation and former president of the University of Minnesota, pointing out that failure to accept the offer had resulted in its withdrawal."

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## UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

THE residue of the estate of the late Charles Hall, amounting to \$10,000,000, will be distributed by his trustees to the higher educational institutions of the Near East and the Orient.

LABORATORIES of applied science to cost approximately \$500,000, the gift of Dr. and Mrs. Ogden M. Edwards, Jr., will be erected in connection with the medical center of the University of Pittsburgh.

As a memorial to the late Oscar Johnson, Mrs. Johnson and her children have made a gift of \$500,000 to Washington University School of Medicine for research on the eye, ear, nose and throat.

FRANCIS P. GARVAN, head of the Chemical Foundation, has given \$10,000 to the Johns Hopkins University for the enlargement of the laboratory of Dr. Joseph Colt Bloodgood. Mr. Garvan will also give \$10,000 a year for five years for the study of human cancer, particularly in reference to the use of dyes and stains in its diagnosis in its earlier stages and treatment and in the investigation of such problems as may arise.

A NEW fellowship has been established at Lehigh University for research in the silk industry by Russell K. Laros, president of the Laros Silk Company, of Bethlehem. The fellowship has been assigned to

Theodore H. Marshall, Iowa State, who will devote half-time to this work for the next two years.

DR. JOHN WALKER MOORE, of the University of Louisville, will succeed Dr. Stuart Graves as dean of the medical school. Dr. Graves resigned recently to become dean of the Alabama School of Medicine at Tuscaloosa.

DR. PAUL E. BOWERS has been appointed professor of abnormal psychology and legal medicine at the Loyola University Law School, Los Angeles.

THE department of anatomy of the University of Western Ontario, London, has been reorganized by Professor Charles C. Macklin. Dr. Henry Alan Skinner has been appointed assistant professor of anatomy, and Dr. Elliott N. Ballantyne, Carl G. Smith, B.A., and Dr. Wilfred K. Welsh are full-time instructors.

## DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

### MAINTAINING THE STANDARDS AND THE SCIENTIFIC USEFULNESS OF THE NATIONAL PARKS

THE approaching meetings of scientific organizations and the recent reading of an article<sup>1</sup> published last summer bring me to comment on the situation. Scientific men have more than once expressed themselves in formal and carefully studied resolutions on our national parks system. Just a year ago the American Association for the Advancement of Science reaffirmed its position in terms too clear to be easily misunderstood. The standards for which the association has stood are not new. They were first set forth in 1872 and have been confirmed by many acts of Congress and by both Democratic and Republican administrations since then. To be sure these standards have been sometimes violently and again insidiously assailed by various interests, especially since in very recent years the parks have been recognized as valuable for promotional purposes. Yet the standards have been maintained inviolate by the prompt and vigorous protests of many far-sighted citizens and of organizations in all parts of the country. Thus thoroughly established by nation-wide support and by legislative action covering a long period of time and a wide range of subordinate issues and interpretations, these standards should be well understood and supported by scientific men. But the article cited seems to show that such is not the case. The belief expressed by Dr. Van Name in *SCIENCE* of August 17 that "the purposes of national parks" are "limited to preserving extraordinary scenic places

and to catering to vacationists" is not in accord with the record.

Quoting the *National Parks Bulletin* of April, 1927, the government conceives national parks as "areas of original unmodified condition, each the finest example of its scenic type in the country, preserved as a system from all industrial use."

The first national park administration ranked national park purposes as "the stimulation of national patriotism" and "the fostering of knowledge and health." Secretary Houston defined national parks in 1916 as areas containing "features of such outstanding importance for beauty as well as for national marvels that they merit national recognition and protection." Secretary Lane directed that the system "should not be lowered in standard, dignity and prestige by the inclusion of areas which express in less than the highest terms the particular class or kind of exhibit which they represent." Secretary Work, confirming Secretary Lane, assigned national parks "a place in the higher education of the people" uniting "both physical and mental recreation." President-elect Herbert Hoover, as secretary of commerce, held that national parks "should be those of outstanding scientific and spiritual appeal, those that are unique in their stimulation and inspiration."

Stephen T. Mather, director of the National Park Service, says that the national parks system is made up of "areas of incomparable scenic grandeur," adding that "those lands whose chief qualification is availability for recreation" do not possess "national park caliber." Robert Sterling Yard, secretary of the National Parks Association, says that the system "was born of the instinct to preserve for all time extraordinary beauty and majesty of native landscape in original unmodified record; it was developed by the genius of the people without conscious planning through a generation and a half of park making; this product analyzed, its purpose and standards were formulated for the conscious upbuilding of the future. The system is thus revealed as a unique expression of the combined idealism and practicality which makes the nation great." Dr. John C. Merriam, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, calling the system a "super-university," declares that "the purely educational value of our national parks is far beyond that of any regularly established formal educational institutions. . . . Nature is said to be an open book to those who really wish to read it, but there are grades and shades of meaning which may be hard to understand. There is certainly no place where the leaves are more widely spread or the print more clear than in those portions of the book," in the national parks of which he was writing.

<sup>1</sup> Willard G. Van Name, *SCIENCE*, 68: 157, 1928.