

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.

The council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science called national parks in 1925 "the means of preserving unique representations of the primitive and majestic in nature," and recorded its protest "against additions to the National Parks System, or change in policy, which may tend to lessen in fact or in public estimation their present high value as natural museums, their complete conservation from industrial uses, and their effectiveness as a national educational institution." The same body resolved in December, 1927, that it approved "the creation of those national parks only which meet the highest standards of the system, namely, which are wholly or almost wholly areas of original unmodified natural conditions, each a unique example of its landscape or geologic type," and stated that the system's "facilities for popular education in nature and for inspiration" possessed "incalculable value to individuals and the nation."

Dr. Van Name is overimpressed, in my opinion, by the "catering to vacationists" which characterizes one or two spots in each national park. The overwhelming majority of park visitors are motorists who, from desire and necessity, stick to a few roads and concentration points. All the eleven hundred square miles of Yosemite National Park, for example, remain a splendid wilderness except the eight or nine square miles constituting Yosemite Valley and several outlying public camp sites, together with a few ribbons of road approaching and connecting them. Considering the immensity of the combined park wildernesses enjoyable only by devotees of the trail (averaging two or three passersby to the square mile per season), recreation will be properly classed merely as a by-product.

Dr. Van Name appears to make a mistake too common in Congress, especially among the recently elected. He fails to see our national parks as a system the nature and products of which necessarily will change with alterations in its component elements. That is why scientific men who have the system's great objectives at heart vigorously oppose the slightest alteration in the standards of areas proposed for additions.

I am sure that we all very heartily sympathize with Dr. Van Name's ruling passion to save as much of the country's small remaining primitive forests as is reasonable and practicable, but I am also sure that other means should be sought which will not overburden to distortion, or divert in the least from its great objectives, an institution of unique and inestimable usefulness. Already the national parks system preserves thousands of square miles of noble primitive forest. The floras of the Rockies, Cascades and Sierra, from about 3,500 feet altitude up, are

illustrated in full range and remarkable example. Especially are the great forests on the Pacific slope splendidly illustrated. Sugar pine stands of superlative and great size will remain in both Sequoia and Yosemite National Parks even if that comparatively very small portion of the Yosemite forest over which Dr. Van Name is so disturbed should pass into the National Forest.

Let me frankly admit my own greed. I should like to see preserved forever in its original unaltered condition as much of the remaining American primeval forest as can safely be segregated from other necessary uses. But for those parts of it which the national parks system can not admit without endangering its own precious standards, we must find some other method of preservation.

HENRY BALDWIN WARD

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

## THE MOLECULAR SCATTERING OF LIGHT

IN a recent note on the molecular scattering of light (*Comptes Rendus*, 186: 1533, 1928), MM. J. Cabannes and P. Daure report an interesting observation, the interpretation of which seems to present some difficulty.

Gaseous butane was illuminated with the mercury line 4358 Å and the scattered light analyzed by the aid of a Fabry and Perot etalon. A wave-length shift towards the red of 0.01 Å was observed. With scattering liquids no ring system could be obtained due to a broadening of the scattered line.

The authors do not give the angle of scattering. If we assume that it was 90°, the observed wave-length shift is equal, within the experimental error, to the shift called for by the theory of the Compton effect. However, if the phenomenon is to be interpreted as a Compton effect, there should be an unmodified line; in fact, according to our present conceptions, all the scattered energy should, for a wave-length as long as 4358 Å, lie in the unmodified line. No such line is recorded. The fact that P. A. Ross (*SCIENCE*, 57: 614, 1923) failed to detect any wave-length shift in the light scattered by solid paraffin hardly contradicts the observation made by Cabannes and Daure, since the scattering in solid paraffin is not purely molecular.

An interpretation of the observed wave-length shift in terms of the newly discovered Raman effect seems also impossible. While the Raman effect might lead to an asymmetrical broadening, it can hardly account for a shift greater than the width of the scattered line.

A verification and a more detailed study of the new phenomenon (dependence upon the angle of scattering, etc.) are greatly needed.

J. RUD NIELSEN

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA