

present *Araucaria imbricata* forest of Argentina and Chile, testifying to extreme persistence of type. The counterpart in the northern hemisphere disappeared with the last of the dinosaurs. Two of the final well-marked species are the fine petrified cone *Araucaria hespera*, and the equally distinctive foliage type *Araucaria hatcheri* from the Ceratops beds of Wyoming and Dakota. Of the two great forests, the one yields the first clear glimpses of the Mesozoic flowering gymnosperms, the first readable evidence for the nature and place in geologic time of the course of change leading into the modern world of flowering plants; the other proves the Coniferales to be a homogeneous group, in all their later history at least.

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### SAMUEL BONSALE PARISH

LIKE many other amateur naturalists before him who have done things well, Samuel B. Parish carried on his botanical explorations of the native vegetation in Southern California because of the intellectual pleasures derived from field studies and because of his love of the high mountains and the stark deserts. Upon this area, Southern California, he has published no less than sixty-three papers ranging from problems of plant geography and taxonomic detail to topographic description, local lists, studies of immigrant plants and analyses of abnormal structures.

Born at Paterson, New Jersey, on January 13, 1838, he graduated from New York University in 1858, with the degree of B.A., taught school, served four years during the Civil War, pursued prospecting and mining in the western states and finally settled as a fruit-grower in the San Bernardino Valley of Southern California in 1872. This new home was centrally located and well situated for exploration by means of a camp wagon and horses of the varied topographic and climatic areas which make up the eight counties of Southern California, an area somewhat larger than the state of Pennsylvania. Botanically the region is highly interesting but was at that time an almost unexplored land. The fruitful results of expeditions made in days or weeks of leisure brought about between Mr. Parish and Dr. C. C. Parry, formerly botanist of the Mexican Boundary Survey, an intimate friendship, and through Parry there was established what were to prove relations, prolonged and cordial, with Asa Gray, George Engelmann, Edward Lee Greene, M. S. Bebb and many others. For a period of forty-eight years Mr. Parish continued to explore this region of his choice, his last expedition, a trip to the Campo region on the Mexican border, being made when he was eighty-one years of age.

On account of library and herbarium advantages he removed to Berkeley in 1920 and was soon appointed honorary curator in the herbarium at the University of California and a little later lecturer in botany at Stanford University. His library was purchased by Pomona College and his invaluable herbarium by Stanford University. He passed away at Berkeley on June 5, 1928, in his ninety-first year, having been active botanically until within a year of his death.

In 1915 Mr. Parish and Ellsworth Huntington joined forces for an expedition into the arid wastes of Death Valley. Both men had had much field experience and neither was in need of homilies on the thesis laid down by H. G. Wells in one of his books that a camping trip is the most severe test of human nature ever invented. On the return journey Dr. Huntington expressed a desire to meet Mrs. Parish. It was arranged. Said Dr. Huntington: "I have been curious, Mrs. Parish, to meet the woman who had the penetration to select so remarkable a man as Mr. Parish. I have in three weeks enjoyed him to the full."

The well-worn path that led to the door of the rose-covered Parish cottage in the San Bernardino Valley has been trod by scores of botanists, beginning with the early visits of Asa Gray and George Engelmann and coming on down to the later ones of Hugo de Vries and J. N. Rose. All these men and others who knew this quiet earnest worker had feelings akin to those of Dr. Huntington. Wise in foresight, thoughtful and considerate, generous of his store of botanical knowledge, unfailing in his dry and emollient humor, men were warmed by the wholesome personality of Samuel Bonsall Parish. In him the Wise Mother seemed in an unusual degree to have mixed harmoniously the ingredients of human nature.

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### SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

#### THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF TROPICAL MEDICINE

THE International Congress of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene had its final meeting at Cairo on the morning of December 22 and the official proceedings ended in the evening with a *soirée* given by the organization committee in the Heliopolis Palace Hotel.

According to a report in the London *Times* the meeting was preceded by the ceremony, over which the Minister of Education, Ahmed Bey Lutfy es Seyyid, presided, of conferring honorary degrees of the Egyptian Faculty of Medicine on some of the foreign delegates. Professor Nuthall, Sir Robert Philip and

Sir Cooper Perry were among those created doctors of medicine.

At the final meeting it was decided that the next congress should be held in Holland in 1931, and it was unanimously resolved:

(1) That in view of the importance of anthropometric and morphological studies, not only to the classification of human races, but also to the ethnological aptitude of individuals, faculties and schools of medicine in tropical countries should specially study this question:

(2) That in view of the fact that leprosy is a disease menacing humanity, the governments of all nations represented in the congress should be invited to cooperate in systematic fashion to combat leprosy on the lines of discovering persons suffering from the disease, of organizing intensive ambulation treatment for early cases not discharging any organisms, of isolating comfortably lepers in an infectious stage, and of periodically inspecting their relatives.

The scientific side of the congress is said to have been most successful. Apart from communications on such subjects as Egyptian splenomegaly, the prophylaxis of bilharziosis, of dysentery, of malaria and of trachoma, several cinema films dealing with tropical diseases were shown, some of great scientific value, particularly one dealing with the action of cells in the destruction of bacteria and another with the life history of bilharzia.

#### THE ENGINEERS MEMORIAL AT LOUVAIN

At a dinner of fifty covers at the University Club, New York, January 7, Prince Albert de Ligne, ambassador of Belgium to the United States, bestowed upon Chairman Edward Dean Adams, of the Committee on War Memorial of the American Engineers, the insignia of Commander of the Order of the Crown of Belgium, conferred by King Albert, as a mark of appreciation for the memorial carillon and clock placed by sixteen national American Engineering Societies in the tower of the new Louvain Library. This is the highest distinction conferred upon civilians of other countries by the government of Belgium. The Belgian Consul-General at New York, J. T. Johnston Mali, was among the guests. President R. V. Wright, of the United Engineering Societies, presided. The company included officers of the national engineering societies and other distinguished members of the engineering profession.

Mr. William H. Onken, member of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers and one of its delegates to the Louvain dedication last July, senior editor of *The Electrical World*, in the principal address after dinner, expressed the international significance of the American memorial, and its effect upon the

citizens of Louvain. He also spoke of the notable contributions to human progress made by the Belgians and their fine personal qualities.

The ambassador expressed the deep appreciation of the King and the people of Belgium for the goodwill displayed by the engineering societies of the United States in placing in Louvain the memorial to the engineers of the United States who had given their lives in the Great War, and particularly for the leadership and generosity of Chairman Adams.

Chairman Adams accepted the distinction as an assurance of the friendliness between the two countries, and proposed that the tower of the Louvain Library housing the memorial carillon and clock be named "Liberty Tower."

Mr. Henry W. Farnam, Jr., and Colonel Arthur S. Dwight showed motion pictures of the dedication of the Louvain Library last fourth of July, which they had taken during the ceremonies. A short report was presented by the Committee on War Memorial.

#### STORM DAMAGE TO THE EXPERIMENT STATIONS IN THE WEST INDIES AND FLORIDA

THE tropical storm which swept the West Indies and Florida from September 10 to 17 caused, as we learn from *The Experiment Station Record*, much damage to both the Porto Rico and Virgin Islands Experiment Stations. No lives were lost, and none of the station employees or their families were injured, but the damage to crops, experimental orchards, buildings and fences was very severe.

The storm struck the island of St. Croix during the night and early morning of September 12 and was accompanied with heavy rain that continued for three days. There was general damage all over the island, but fortunately comparatively few lives were lost. At the station a number of buildings, mostly residences of the employees, were partly unroofed, but little damage was done to the office and laboratory building. The plant house, poultry house, implement shed and fumigating house were destroyed completely, as was a large galvanized iron shed used as a catchment area for the water system. The damage done to the buildings and fences is estimated at about \$5,000.

In Porto Rico the hurricane swept the island on September 14, doing enormous damage to buildings, crops and trees. There was a large loss of life, more than 1,000 fatalities being reported. The damage to the island is estimated at from \$60,000,000 to \$100,000,000. The citrus and coffee crops, both of which were very promising, were almost totally lost and the plantings so severely damaged that four or five years will elapse before conditions are again normal.

At the station, which is located at Mayaguez, a por-