

Baltimore, Maryland), the long-established and well-known publishers of books and journals in the fields of education and psychology. It is expected that the first number of *Human Biology* will appear during the latter part of January, 1929. A detailed announcement regarding the journal will shortly be made by the publishers, Warwick and York, to whom all correspondence relative to subscriptions and other business matters should be addressed. Those who have already subscribed to *Human Biology* through Mr. Thomas will receive the journal as issued, without further action on their part.

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RAYMOND PEARL

EXPEDITION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TROPICAL RESEARCH OF THE NEW YORK ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

THE Twelfth Expedition of the Department of Tropical Research of the New York Zoological Society will be under the direction of Dr. William Beebe, and will take the field for six or eight months. The Governor Sir Louis Bols, the Honorable F. G. Gosling and the Legislature of Bermuda have granted to Dr. Beebe the use of the island of Nonsuch as a base for deep-sea work off shore. The financing of the expedition has been assured by the generosity of Mortimer Schiff, Harrison Williams, Burt Massee and others.

The island of Nonsuch consists of five acres, partly wooded, with alternating coral rock and sandy beaches, and is provided with buildings in perfect condition for use as laboratories. Directly off shore, deep water approaches closer to Bermuda than elsewhere, a mile depth being found only two and a half miles beyond the one hundred fathom mark. With the sea-going tug *Gladiolen* daily trawling in from one to two miles of water will be carried on for many months, and by the aid of pressure tanks, dark rooms both on the tug and on shore, and a fully equipped laboratory, the bathypelagic fish will be studied, both alive and dead.

The efficiency of carrying on this work from the deck of a tug was demonstrated by Dr. Beebe during the past summer in the Hudson Gorge, and the richness of the deep-sea life in the particular area off Bermuda was proved several years ago by station hauls of the *Arcturus*. After a thousand net hauls have been drawn in the deep sea off Nonsuch, there should result considerable definite knowledge of the life histories of organisms and the general ecological conditions existing in this black, cold, high-pressured and almost unexplored field of life.

The fish life of the reefs and shallow water will be studied intensively with the aid of diving helmets, submarine cameras and a fleet of six boats, while constant observation will be carried on of certain

limited areas of coral reefs within a few yards of the island. Laboratory work will be confined to observations bearing directly on life histories and ecological associations, and such problems as the osteological development of larval and young fish.

Among the six or eight members of the staff will be John Tee-Van, William Merriam, Gloria Hollister, Helen Tee-Van and others, while Dr. W. K. Gregory, Professor Henry Fairfield Osborn and other scientific men will visit the expedition from time to time.

NEW WORK ON CANCER UNDERTAKEN BY THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

At a meeting held on January 4 at the American College of Surgeons, the committee on the Archives of Malignant Diseases discussed methods for beginning a study of the relation of heredity to cancer. Much experimental work extending over many years has been performed on animals, especially on mice, which is said to show a definite influence of heredity on the occurrence of cancer in these animals. It is impossible to experiment in the same way on man, and the only way in which accurate information can be obtained is by the compilation of statistics concerning the families of cancer cases. The study of several generations will necessarily extend over a long period of time.

The personnel of the committee is: Bowman C. Crowell, M.D., Chicago, *chairman*; Herman Bunderson, M.D., Chicago; David J. Davis, M.D., Chicago; Robert B. Greenough, M.D., Boston; Ludvig Hektoen, M.D., Chicago; William J. Mayo, M.D., Rochester; F. A. McJunkin, M.D., Chicago; James P. Simonds, M.D., Chicago; Miss Maud Slye, Ph.D., Chicago; George W. Swift, M.D., Seattle; William H. Welch, M.D., Baltimore; Allen O. Whipple, M.D., New York.

The committee will seek cooperation from surgeons and physicians in all parts of the country, and will permanently file records of cancer cases for future study. These cases will all be authentic cases of cancer, as proved by microscopic examination of tissue which will be filed with the records. Special attention will be paid to the family histories and a record of health conditions will be made. In this way there will be compiled data bearing on practically all aspects of cancer, which will be available for study of any of its phases.

The influence which the American College of Surgeons has obtained through its work in hospital standardization will enable it to secure the cooperation of the nearly two thousand hospitals in the country which have been approved by the college.

According to Dr. Franklin H. Martin, president of the American College of Surgeons, that organization now conducts a registry of bone sarcoma which is unique in character and extent, and is looked to by