

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

surgeons as the authority on this subject. For seven years the college has had a committee working on this phase of the cancer problem, and has collected nearly a thousand cases of bone tumors with complete records. All these cases have been accurately and repeatedly studied by the members of the committee.

Another phase of the cancer problem has been among the activities of the college through its Committee on the Treatment of Malignant Diseases with Radium and X-ray. A study has been made to compare the results of the treatment of cancer of different parts by surgery, radium and X-ray. Already reports have been issued on five-year cures of cancer of three parts of the body, namely, the uterus, the breast and the mouth—which enable surgeons to estimate the relative value of the different forms of treatment.

### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. WILLIAM H. WRIGHT, astronomer of the Lick Observatory, University of California, has been awarded the Janssen gold medal of the Paris Academy of Sciences for his studies of the atmosphere of Mars and other planets.

THE Edison gold medal for achievement in electrical science has been awarded by the American Institute of Electrical Engineers to Dr. Frank B. Jewett, president of the Bell Telephone Laboratories and vice-president of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, for his pioneer research and development work in connection with the theory and practice of voice transmission. The medal, which is awarded annually, was presented to Dr. Jewett on January 30, during the winter convention of the institute in New York.

THE Physical Society of London has awarded the sixth Duddell memorial medal to Dr. Charles Edouard Guillaume, the director of the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures, Sèvres. The medal is awarded annually for the advancement of knowledge by the invention or design of scientific instruments or by the discovery of material used in their construction. Dr. Guillaume is known for the invention of three metallic alloys—invar, elinvar and platinite. He received the Nobel prize for physics in 1920.

THE Elisha Kent Kane medal of the Geographical Society of Philadelphia has been awarded to Dr. Roy Chapman Andrews, of the American Museum of Natural History in New York, in recognition of his contributions to scientific travel and the additions his expeditions have made to the geographical knowledge of Central Asia. The Kane medal is the highest award given by the society and in recent years has been bestowed upon Peary, Amundsen, Shackelton,

Stefansson, Hassenein Bey and Byrd. The medal was conferred by the president, Henry S. Bryant, on the evening of January 21, at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, when Dr. Andrews described the discoveries of the expedition and the results of his work.

PROFESSOR THOMAS BARBOUR, director of the Harvard University Museum and of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, has been elected one of the twenty-five foreign members of the Zoological Society of London.

HONORARY membership in the American Society of Civil Engineers was at the recent New York meeting conferred on J. Waldo Smith, consulting engineer of the Board of Water Supply of New York. There are now sixteen honorary members.

PRESIDENT WALLACE W. ATWOOD, president of Clark University and director of the school of geography, has received the diploma from the Swedish Anthropological and Geographical Society, to which he has recently been elected as foreign member.

THE medal of the American Institute of Chemists for "noteworthy and outstanding service to the science of chemistry and the profession of chemist in America" has been awarded to Mr. and Mrs. Francis P. Garvan. The presentation will be made at the annual meeting of the institute in May. The speakers on that occasion will be Honorable John W. Davis, representing the legal profession; Dr. John J. Abel, of the Johns Hopkins University, representing the medical profession, and Dr. John H. Finley, of the *New York Times*, representing the general public. Dr. Charles H. Herty will preside and Dr. Finley will make the presentation. Mr. and Mrs. Garvan will respond.

GEORGE GUSTAV HEYE, director of the Museum of the American Indian, New York City, which he founded, has been awarded the honorary degree of doctor of philosophy by the University of Hamburg.

PROFESSOR ANSON MARSTON, dean of engineering in the Iowa State College, was elected president of the American Society of Civil Engineers at the New York meeting which opened on January 16. He succeeds Mr. Lincoln Bush, of New York.

At the New York meeting of the American Astronomical Society the following nominations were approved by the council: *Vice-president*, R. G. Aitken; *Secretary*, R. S. Dugan; *Treasurer*, Benjamin Boss; *Councillors*, E. S. King, F. H. Seares; *Member* of the Division of Physical Science of the National Research Council, S. A. Mitchell. Election will be held at the forty-second meeting, which is to take place in Ottawa next summer.