

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

## BARRO COLORADO ISLAND BIOLOGICAL STATION

DR. THOMAS BARBOUR, chairman of the executive committee of the Barro Colorado Island Biological Station in the Panama Canal Zone, has submitted to the Division of Biology and Agriculture of the National Research Council the fifth annual report of the station, covering the period March 1, 1928, to February 28, 1929.

Dr. Barbour reports that the following institutions have continued their usual \$300 table subscriptions: American Museum of Natural History, Harvard University, Missouri Botanical Garden, the Johns Hopkins University and University of Michigan. The Smithsonian Institution has also subscribed to a table. In transmitting the announcement of the institution, Dr. Alexander Wetmore, assistant secretary, wrote as follows:

It is particularly pleasant to have our name associated with the work of this laboratory, since I have been watching closely the work there and feel that it is highly important. In fact, from the standpoint of studies of tropical humid forests, I know of no place in the world that is equal to it in value of results obtained at the present time. I look forward to much in the future.

In addition to the table subscriptions, several donations, both of money and of equipment, were received from private individuals. The most important contribution in the way of equipment has been that of a new boat twenty feet long provided with outboard motor, which was given to the station by Mr. and Mrs. George M. Whitehouse.

The Standard Fruit and Steamship Company, which operates several fast steamers between New Orleans and the Canal Zone (direct), has agreed to give the very lowest rates possible to scientists coming to the station. This will be the same rate as that accorded to employees of the Panama Canal, which is \$75.00 each way.

In addition, the United Fruit Company continues to give the laboratory each year several complimentary passes from New York and return for visiting investigators, the only expense on the part of investigators being a charge of \$5.00 a day for subsistence. Particulars regarding such passes may be obtained from Dr. Barbour (Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts).

The Panama Railroad Company, through the kindness of the governor of the Panama Canal, who is also president of the company, continues to make available a \$50.00 rate each way between New York and the Canal Zone. Application for this rate when coming to the Canal Zone should be made through

the chairman, and through the curator, Dr. James Zetek, for the return trip.

The governor of the Panama Canal has kindly extended to scientists and members of their families the same rates at the Gorgas Hospital as are accorded to families of employees of the Panama Canal.

The main laboratory building of the station has suffered serious damage from the attacks of *Coptotermes niger*, the most destructive termite in Panama. Replacements have been made, using redwood in place of fir and other timbers hitherto used. Redwood seems to be proving almost completely immune to termite attack.

Experimental work to determine the resistance of various woods and treatments to termites has been in progress ever since the laboratory was established, and certain of these studies by Snyder and Zetek are attracting much attention. This year the Forest Products Laboratory of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has sent to the station, for testing, 130 large pieces of wood treated in various ways.

About a score of scientific workers have been accommodated at the station for longer or shorter periods during the last year. Among them may be mentioned Dr. Frank M. Chapman, Professor E. R. Dunn, Dr. Herbert N. McCoy, Dr. Frank E. Lutz, Professor A. M. Chickering, Dr. Phil Rau, Professor W. H. Weston, Dr. Thomas E. Snyder and others. In addition many visitors registered at the station during the year.

Ten papers have been published during the year as a result of various investigations carried on at the station, and several other papers are now in press.

The station is carrying on bravely, but needs financial assistance. American biologists ought to make a concerted effort to put the laboratory upon a sound footing. In the meantime, thanks to the generosity of Dr. Barbour, Dr. Fairchild and other donors, the station offers a unique opportunity to those who would work in the American tropics.

VERNON KELLOGG

PERMANENT SECRETARY,  
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

SCIENTIFIC APPARATUS AND  
LABORATORY METHODSTWO COMMON FLY SPECIES EASILY  
REARED IN THE LABORATORY

INTEREST attaches to forms easily reared throughout their life cycles in the laboratory, because of their possible value both in the classroom and in research work. During a study of certain insects found about sheep manure, the ease was noted with which two species of *Leptocera* (*Limosina*) were carried through