tages for the project method of conducting advanced laboratory classes in psychology. The thesis that albino rats can learn a maze with the aid of visual cues alone was supported by A. Walton. The last paper was by G. M. Stratton, on the behavior of different nationalities in the United States.

C. C. Miles opened the Friday morning session with a presentation of data on sex differences in certain emotional attitudes. H. C. Gilhousen reported a study of errors in learning to work a serial choice reaction-time apparatus. J. Ball discussed a method of quantitative measurement of sexual excitability in the female albino rat. A paper by H. R. Taylor on the prediction of college success at the University of Oregon closed the session.

Three papers were offered during the last session. Herman Adler described the founding and operation of the Institute for Juvenile Research at Chicago. R. Redfield followed with a discussion of the meaning of mind to a social anthropologist. The last paper was by R. C. Tryon on genetics of learning ability in rats. After the annual banquet in the evening, retiring President Warner Brown spoke on the nature of intelligence.

WESTERN SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE

The soil scientists' meetings were on the two days preceding the general meeting. The morning session of June 17 included two papers on peat soils of the west coast, and three dealing with alkaline soils and pH. Soil-moisture and soil-temperature problems were the principal subjects considered during the afternoon session. A symposium on base exchange in soils occupied the morning of June 18. The afternoon and evening sessions were chiefly devoted to problems of plant nutrition.

The new president of the Pacific Division of the American Association is Dr. Douglas Houghton Campbell, emeritus professor of botany, Stanford University. The new secretary, to fill the unexpired term of Dr. Vestal, is Dr. James Murray Luck, assistant professor of chemistry at Stanford University. The change become effective on August 1.

The 1930 meeting of the Pacific Division and associated societies will be held at the University of Oregon at Eugene; the 1931 meeting probably in southern California.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ANATOMY

THE correspondent of the *Journal* of the American Medical Association writes that the commonwealth of Australia is the custodian, for the world, of an almost unique fauna. Particularly is Australia unique in regard to the marsupials, some of which, such as the kangaroo, the wallaby and the koala, are found nowhere else. It is fitting, therefore, that the comparative anatomist should seize the opportunity of studying these mammalian curiosities, for there is no doubt that the marsupial, like the Australian aboriginal, is disappearing. Both are difficult of domestication. Already the Tasmanian aboriginal has vanished, leaving behind a few skeletons. Since the position regarding the marsupials was realized, about twenty years ago, efforts have been made to study and preserve the species. Large tracts of suitable virgin country, such as Wilson's Promontory in Victoria, have been set aside as sanctuaries for native fauna. Although not receiving the recognition and encouragement it deserves, enthusiastic anatomists, chief among whom is Dr. Colin Mackenzie, have done valuable work by an extensive study of the mammals and reptiles of Australia.

Since the foundation of the national capital at Canberra, plans have been prepared for the Australian Institute of Anatomy, the erection of which is estimated to cost £100,000. The buildings will cover an area of 44,450 square feet and will be erected on a site of 8 acres. Dr. Colin Mackenzie has been appointed director of the institute. This appointment has been universally approved. Associated with the institute will be a reservation of 80 acres occupying a peninsula of the Molongolo River, where members of the unique Australian fauna will be studied in their natural state.

Canberra is destined to become the anatomic center of the Pacific, and from the point of view of specimens the Australian Institute of Anatomy will, in the future, rank second only to the Hunterian Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons in London. Dr. Colin Mackenzie has donated his complete anatomic museum, consisting of hundreds of macroscopic specimens and thousands of microscopic preparations. Other notable gifts include the Horne-Bowle collection of aboriginal stone implements, the Murray Black collections and valuable specimens from Messrs. Otway Falkiner and E. Hill. Mr. Harry Burrell, of Sydney, has presented to the institute his unrivaled collection of specimens dealing with the life history of the platypus. The present value of the collections is estimated at £100,000, and, at the present rate of accessions, in a few years, they may be worth £250,000.

Facilities for study will be offered not only to research workers in this country but to those from oversea. The institute will afford exceptional oppor-

tunities for studying human embryology from the functional point of view. Already, considerable work of great practical value has been done with regard to uterine support, to the anatomic relationships of the ureter and genital ducts and to the comparative anatomy of the mandible, the central nervous system, the colon, the greater omentum, the lesser sac and the vermiform appendix. The marsupials offer an excellent field for the study of the muscular epochs, and the postural changes resulting.

MALARIA IN INDIA

STATEMENTS concerning malarial conditions in India are contained in the annual report for 1928 of the Ross Institute and Hospital for Tropical Diseases. According to the London *Times* it recalls that Sir Malcolm Watson and Major Lockwood Stevens went to India on an expedition of inquiry last November and sailed for home last April. They made an extensive tour and drew up reports which will be published later. In the meantime the Ross Institute in the present report gives a summary of their observations as follows:

Bombay was first inspected. Compared with many other places the control of malaria in Bombay Island, indeed its complete elimination, is a relatively simple task. The mosquito which carries the disease lives chiefly in tanks, wells and cisterns. A certain number of these have been closed or covered; and there is an able staff under Dr. Sandilands, the health officer of Bombay, capable of completely stamping out the disease. But there still remain a large number of breeding places, and eighteen years after the source of the danger was pointed out by Dr. C. A. Bentley, the director of public health of Bengal, the people of Bombay, and especially the mill workers, suffer severely from the disease.

Malaria is steadily spreading through many parts of Bengal. Within living memory hundreds of villages have been decimated; thousands of acres of once prosperous and highly cultivated land have been abandoned; populous towns have been reduced to the status of miserable fever-stricken villages; stately mansions have as their sole inhabitants the wild pig and the leopard; and the jungle is creeping in to reign once more over a land from which it was driven thousands of years ago. The malaria of Bengal may well be described as a great tragedy.

There is much controversy on the cause of the malaria in Western Bengal. Many hold, among them Dr. Bentley, that malaria has been increased by the embankments which have interfered with the natural flooding of the Delta. They claim that, where the land is flooded annually by the rivers of the Delta, there is a surprising immunity from malaria, and that malaria is specially intense where railways, canals, roads and embankments have killed the rivers or reduced their flow. The other view is that the malaria is due to insufficient drainage of the land. Its supporters claim that what drainage has done to banish malaria from other lands it can do for Bengal. Sir Malcolm Watson considers that there is a strong case for an independent inquiry, and he has written to the governor suggesting that this should be made.

SOIL SURVEYS APPROVED BY THE PACIFIC SCIENCE CONGRESS

PRESENTATION of the soil survey work of the U. S. Department of Agriculture by Dr. Oswald Schreiner, chief of the division of soil fertility, of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, and official representative of the department at the Fourth Pacific Science Congress, held this summer in Batavia and Bandoeng, Java, was followed by a resolution of the congress urging all Pacific countries to extend soil survey work as far as possible on a uniform basis somewhat comparable to the methods by which the United States has already mapped and surveyed half of its agricultural land.

According to reports from Java, received this week by Dr. Henry G. Knight, chief of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, Dr. Schreiner was appointed chairman of a standing committee on soils charged with the task of working out a uniform basis of classification for the soils of Pacific countries in cooperation with the International Society of Soil Science.

Following the meeting of the Fourth Pacific Science Congress at which he was chosen chairman of the soil section, Dr. Schreiner attended the Third Congress of the International Sugar-cane Technologists held at Sorabaya, Java, where he was again elected chairman of the soils section.

In addition to their appointment of a standing committee to further the work of soil survey in Pacific countries, members of congress showed much interest in the latest work of the U. S. Department of Agriculture in soil erosion prevention and in the recent findings of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils as to the successful application of the rarer and little-known fertilizing elements to certain soil types, upon which subject Dr. Schreiner presented papers.

"No mere words can describe the absolute 'otherness' of the civilization one sees on this island. It is so different that it mystifies. It is beautiful, enchanting and altogether delightful," wrote Dr. Schreiner in a recent letter to Dr. Knight. He tells of towns and villages with strange and beautiful temples everywhere, richly carved with grotesque figures of gods and demons.

"Java has been called the jewel of the tropics," he writes, "but Bali with its tropical setting and interesting people is the real gem of these far-eastern islands; enchanting, intriguing, surpassingly beautiful, the most tropical, the most eastern of them all. The bronze statues of beautiful men and women, superb