

and expense of operation of this repository function.

A proposal is before the Congress of the United States which has for its purpose the establishment of a national "Hall of Records," where data and records accumulated by the several branches of the federal government can be safely preserved and made available for reference. If provided, this service could probably be extended by legal enactment to include many research activities which are now supported co-operatively by federal and state appropriations, and might possibly be made available to other research data. If this were done, the problem would be met to a considerable extent so far as American scientific research is concerned, but not for that of other nations.

This need has been considered by the division of biology and agriculture of the National Research Council and by it referred to the executive board of the council with the request that attention be given to possible means for meeting the need. It is to be hoped that careful consideration of the problem and some positive action looking toward its solution may be forthcoming in the not far distant future.

R. W. THATCHER,

MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

PRESERVATION OF NATURAL AREAS

THE article on this subject by Mr. L. G. Rommel in *SCIENCE* for July 28, 1929, makes it seem timely to call attention to the following resolution passed last winter by the Ecological Society of America at its New York meeting:

WHEREAS, Owing to their situation in high if not actually mountainous regions the National Parks fail to include any areas exemplifying some of the most remarkable, beautiful and scientifically interesting types of forest characteristic of western North America; and

WHEREAS, No fine examples of the immense Sitka spruces, lowland white firs, cedars and others of the sixteen or more species of trees that in the forests of the northwest attain a height of 200 feet or more are being permanently protected, and no satisfactory sample tract even of the Douglas fir, the most important timber tree of that region of the continent, seems likely to escape the lumbermen; Therefore be it

Resolved, That the Ecological Society of America ought to invite the attention of the United States Forest Service to the importance, from a scientific point of view, of setting aside, for permanent preservation in their natural condition, the finest possible sample tracts of the various types of forest in the National Forests before the rapidly progressing utilization of the timber shall have rendered it impossible to save any but inferior examples. And be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to the Secretary of Agriculture and to the Chief of the United States Forest Service.

The Forest Service has recently announced the establishment of a number of reservations for the preservation of natural conditions, but unfortunately none of these fulfil the need that these resolutions point out. They are not forested, or contain only forest growth of inferior character, and as the cutting of such timber as they bear, grazing, not only of cattle but sheep, mining, irrigation and water-power developments, hunting and fishing, and camping by vacationists are not to be excluded, their value for scientific purposes as examples of areas in their natural condition may be questioned.

WILLARD G. VAN NAME

NEW YORK

INSECT NUTRITION

ON December 31, 1928, the *Transactions* of the Entomological Society of London appeared, containing a valuable paper by Mr. B. P. Uvarov, of the Imperial Bureau of Entomology, entitled, "Insect Nutrition and Metabolism." This paper was prepared at the request of the British Committee on Civil Research, through its subcommittee on dietetics. The author calls attention to the fact that most papers dealing with the nutrition of insects emphasize the morphology of the parts concerned but usually give scant attention to the actual physiological processes. For this reason, special attention is given in this paper to chemistry and physiology and not to morphology. The data are, however, presented from the standpoint of an entomologist. There is an excellent bibliography of over six hundred titles.

It is not the purpose of this note to attempt a summary of a summary, but it seems pertinent to call the attention of American entomologists to this important compilation. The author and the organizations responsible for this work are to be complimented on the work, which will be most useful to their colleagues on this side.

In the introduction, prepared by the secretary of the Committee on Civil Research, it is stated that copies of the original abstracts prepared by Mr. Uvarov have been deposited in two libraries in Great Britain, for the use of those interested. Through the generosity of the Committee on Civil Research, a set of these abstracts has now been received and deposited in the library of Cornell University, where they are available for consultation. Copies of these abstracts will shortly be available for distribution through the usual library exchange, and those interested should make application through a university or public library.

E. F. PHILLIPS

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

NEW FOSSILS FROM MAINE

EARLY in June of this year the writer made brief visits to the slate quarries at Brownville and Monson,