SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

NATIVE RACES IN NEW GUINEA

THE London *Times* reports that in furtherance of the efforts that are being made by the Australian Administration of the Mandated Territory of New Guinea to deal with the problem of population, a sociological census is being conducted by the government anthropologist with the object of revealing the causes of depopulation wherever it exists. On the results of the census will depend the measures which the administration will take to arrest the decline.

The investigation of independent anthropologists who are now working in the territory will bear very closely on the matter, particularly as some of these scientists are women and will probably be able to secure accurate information as to the position of the female native, and the extent to which this is connected with the population question. There are at present two women anthropologists working among the natives in the territory. Dr. Hortense Powdermaker, of London University, supported by the National Research Council, has been for some months in New Ireland villages. Dr. Margaret Fortune, accompanied by her husband, Mr. H. R. Fortune (Cambridge), is supported by the American Museum of Natural History, New York, and is investigating social questions affecting the status of women, among the Manus tribes in the Admiralty Islands. Miss Beatrice Blackwood, demonstrator in ethnology at Oxford University, is expected at Rabaul soon to take up similar work. Mr. Gregory Bateson, who holds a research studentship of Cambridge University, has lived for more than a year among the Bainings and the Sulkas in New Britain, and will soon leave for the Sepik to continue his investigations there.

The Crane Pacific Expedition, which is now at work in the vicinity of the Sepik, includes in its personnel Dr. W. L. Moss, of the Harvard Medical School, who is taking blood slides and anthropological measurements of natives. This expedition, financed by a Chicago business man who is also a trustee of the Chicago Field Museum, includes an ichthyologist and half a dozen other scientists who are engaged principally in the collection of biological specimens for the museum.

Recent research workers whose contributions to the anthropology of New Guinea have been published are Mr. G. Pitt-Rivers, who spent some time among the natives of Aua and Matti Islands, and Dr. R. W. Cilento, formerly director of public health in the territory, who, with funds supplied by the commonwealth government, investigated the cause of depopulation in the western islands of the territory. The work of all these scientists will throw some light on the factor, possibly different in every area, upon which it will be necessary to concentrate to arrest depopulation and maintain a virile native race.

The anthropologist attached to the administration, Mr. Chinnery, is now engaged on a sociological census in the New Ireland district, having already spent some months in Kieta.

DISCONTINUANCE OF THE CHILEAN OBSERVATORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

THE University of California Lick Observatory station at Santiago, Chile, which for a quarter of a century has given California representation in the southern hemisphere of the globe, 6,000 miles or more from the main campus, has been closed.

The regents of the university have given approval to the final report of the sale of the observatory equipment to the Catholic University of Chile, and the disposition of the funds thus secured.

The observatory at Santiago, on Cerro San Cristobal, was established in 1903 for the purpose of obtaining data on the radial velocities of stars in the southern hemisphere of the sky in connection with a survey being made by Dr. W. W. Campbell, now president of the university. The cost of the station was met by the late D. O. Mills, at that time a regent.

It was expected that the work would require two years to complete, but the task proved to be many times more complex than was thought; almost 25 years elapsed before the required data could be accumulated. Among other things it was found that about one out of four supposedly single stars was in reality double or multiple stars composed of two or occasionally more stellar bodies revolving about each other.

During the quarter century of observation at Santiago, almost $200,000 was spent in staff salaries and equipment, which came entirely from private gifts, though the results of the work have redounded to the credit of the university and of the state. The final results of the survey were recently published by President Campbell and Astronomer Joseph Haines Moore.

After the death of Regent D. O. Mills, the chief contributors to the support of the work at Santiago were: Ogden Mills, William H. Crocker, Mrs. Crocker, F. W. Bradley, A. B. Spreckels, Gordon Blanding, Dr. Ambrose Swasey, George B. Douglas, William B. Bourn, Alexander F. Morrison, Mortimer and Hubert Fleishhacker, the Carnegie Corporation, Phillip E. Bowles and an anonymous alumnus of the university.

THE NATIONAL FORESTS OF ALASKA

THE *United States Daily* reports that development work on the national forests of Alaska has been

studied by members of the agricultural subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations of Congress, who have made a tour of the national forests with Major R. Y. Stuart, chief of forest service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The members of Congress making the tour were Representatives Dickinson (Rep.), of Algona, Iowa; Summers (Rep.), of Walla Walla, Wash; Buchanan (Dem.), of Brenham, Texas, and Sandlin (Dem.), of Minden, La., all members of the House Committee on Appropriations.

Before sailing for Alaska the party inspected some of the work of the Forest Service in the Lake States, the northern and the northwestern forest districts, and visited the Forest Products Laboratory at Madison, Wis., the national forests in the California, Intermountain and Rocky Mountain districts.

In Alaska the party visited the Tongass and the Chugach, the largest and among the least developed of our national forests. Within these forests are vast stands of spruce and hemlock, which will support a large-scale, permanent pulp and paper industry. Two large sales of timber recently made by the Forest Service have paved the way for the establishment of this industry in the territory. Cut under Forest Service supervision on a sustained-yield basis, by which the annual cut will be no greater than the annual growth, the timber will furnish the industry an unfailing supply of raw material.

National forests in Alaska receive a proportionate share of the appropriations under the forest road section of the federal highway act. To date, 185½ miles of forest road have been built where there were no roads or only exceedingly poor roads before. As evidence of the part such roads play in the development of the region, improvements costing more than $4,500,000 have been constructed along these roads, and by connecting formerly isolated communities and making recreation areas accessible, road construction also brings better living conditions. The policy in road construction is to open up undeveloped territory and projects for construction are selected in places where it is believed that the development will follow. Many new projects are needed to take care of present and future needs.

The Forest Service has also expended a limited amount of money for construction of trails. In this work the aim has been to serve fire protection requirements, open up mineral areas for prospecting and provide short recreational trails near settlements, as well as to provide for the administration needs of the Forest Service.

The Tongass and Chugach forests are given forest fire protection by the Forest Service, but the extensive spruce-birch forests of the interior are without protection. The need for organized fire control for these areas has been pointed out to the members of the congressional committee by C. H. Flory, district forester and commissioner representing the Department of Agriculture in Alaska. Mr. Flory recommended as a first step a reconnaissance of the interior timbered areas, to provide information regarding forest values, game and fur relationships, grazing and other values to be protected.

The Forest Service has adopted a liberal land policy in the territory. Valid mining claims are recognized, and withdrawal of lands valuable for agriculture homesites or industrial development is allowed. Land policies are formulated, however, with the fundamental provision in mind that areas chiefly valuable for timber production may be permanently used for that purpose.

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

THE Graduate School of the Department of Agriculture was established in 1921, and from the beginning, up to and including the school year 1927–28, a total of 766 students had registered and taken work in its courses, according to the annual report of the secretary to Dr. A. F. Woods, director of scientific work of the department and director of the school and of the school council. The report gives the following information in regard to the school.

The number of students registered, from 1921 to the year 1927–28, inclusive, 766.

Sources from which the students were drawn:

Bureau of Agricultural Economics	225
Bureau of Plant Industry	137
Bureau of Chemistry and Soils	72
Bureau of Entomology	39
Bureau of Animal Industry	38
Fixed Nitrogen Laboratory	23
City of Washington, D. C.	22
Plant Quarantine, Extension Service, Bureau of Dairy Industry, each	20
Library of Department	19
Forest Service, Bureau of Home Economics, each	17
Geological Survey	16
Bureau of Public Roads	10
Bureau of Biological Survey, Maryland, each	8
Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, each	7
Treasury Department, Office of Information, each	6
War Department, Tariff Commission, each,	4
Weather Bureau	3
Food, Drug, Insecticide Administration, Smithsonian Institution, Office of the Surgeon-General, each	2
Office of Personnel and Business Administration, Colorado, Interstate Commerce	