

ORGANIZATION OF VIRGINIA ORNITHOLOGISTS

A GROUP of naturalists met at Lynchburg College, Virginia, on December 7, and formed the Virginia Ornithologist Society, having for its main purpose the promotion of the study of birds of the state. Ruskin S. Freer, professor at the college, was chosen president. About twenty were present, sessions lasting most of the day. The society is to be state wide and plans were formed for the functioning of the organization in several sections, among them being groups at Richmond, Norfolk and near Washington.

Perfection of the organization took up a greater part of the time of the gathering, with scientists from Blacksburg, Lexington and a member of the state game commission present, as well as Lynchburg naturalists. Mr. Freer said while the society is mainly for advancement of the study of birds, and for working with ornithologists of other states, the scope of its work would include the teaching of conservation of wild bird life, and educational work on the economic and esthetic values of birds.

At the suggestion of the Virginia Biological Survey and others interested in national work among birds, it was decided to compile a catalogue of Virginia birds, the work to require extensive research. It was also decided to publish a monthly bulletin for members. Dr. J. J. Murray, of Lexington, was chosen to edit the publication, to be assisted by a committee composed of Dr. J. I. Hamaker, of Randolph-Macon Woman's College; C. O. Handley, member of the state game commission of Richmond, and Miss Lena B. Henderson, of Randolph-Macon.

Among other things it was decided to send a radio message through KDKA Pittsburgh to George M. Sutton, who is spending a year on Southampton Isle, in the mouth of Hudson Bay, Canada, studying birds in that region of the North American continent.

The Lynchburg members will function as a state organization working in the Blue Ridge area. Organization of work in other cities for group study will begin shortly. Groups are to cooperate through corresponding members and in publishing the bulletin and state bird catalogue. Other officers of the society elected are, Charles O. Handley, of Richmond, state game commissioner, *vice-president*, and Miss Lena B. Henderson, *secretary-treasurer*.

After luncheon at Lynchburg College, the party went to Timberlake to participate in the monthly water fowl census.

THE NOBEL PRIZES

ACCORDING to a radio dispatch to *The Christian Science Monitor*, King Gustav, in the concert hall of the palace, recently distributed this year's Nobel

prizes to six of seven recipients, there being one absentee, Professor Christian Eijkman. In the evening the Nobel Foundation gave a banquet honoring the winners, which was attended by the Crown Prince. The value of the awards given this year amounted to nearly \$48,000 each.

The presentation ceremony was performed in the presence of the royal house and practically the entire government and diplomatic corps. Each recipient was welcomed by Governor Hjalmar Hammarskjöld, president of the Nobel Foundation.

Attendance in person in Stockholm to receive the prize was one of the conditions made by the late Alfred Nobel, which it has not always been possible to fulfil, but on this occasion a large proportion of those to whom the prize was awarded were present, adding to the importance of the occasion. These included Thomas Mann, the German author, to whom the Swedish Academy decided on November 12 to award the 1929 Nobel prize in literature, and Prince Louis Victor de Broglie, the Frenchman who shared the year's prize in physics with Dr. Owen William Richardson, of London, who had planned a visit to Stockholm before he knew of the honor to be conferred on him.

Professor Hans von Euler-Chelpin, at present professor at the University of Stockholm, to whom the year's Nobel prize in chemistry was awarded by the Academy of Science, automatically attends, as he is also a member of the Nobel Committee. The prize in chemistry was shared by Professor Arthur Harden, of the University of London, who was also present. The Nobel prize in physiology and medicine was shared by Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins, of Cambridge, and Professor Christian Eijkman, of Utrecht, the Netherlands.

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON MENTAL HYGIENE

THE preliminary announcement of the First International Congress on Mental Hygiene has been sent out by John R. Shillady, administrative secretary, 370 Seventh Ave., New York City. The congress will be held in Washington, D. C., May 5 to 10, 1930. President Hoover has accepted the honorary presidency and delegates are expected from more than thirty countries.

The American Psychiatric Association and the American Association for the Study of the Feeble-minded will hold their annual meetings in Washington at the same time as the First International Congress, and hence the largest number of people interested in mental hygiene ever gathered together at one place and time will probably meet in Washington that week.

It is the purpose to have a maximum of discussion