

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association reports that during the twelfth International Ophthalmological Congress, I. Van der Hoeve, president of the congress, and E. Marx, secretary, called a meeting at which the representatives of the following states and cities were present: Van der Hoeve, Leyden; Jitta and F. Wibaut, Amsterdam; Angelucci and V. Rossi, Naples; Lutrario, Rome; Emile de Grosz, Budapest; Auerbach, Moscow; F. Avizonis, Lithuania; F. H. Beaumont, New Zealand; Birch-Hirschfeld, Königsberg; Coppez, Brussels; A. Feigenbaum, Jerusalem; Gray Clegg, Manchester; Hamburg, Roumania; Hanke, Vienna; F. Humbert and Morax, Paris; Imre, Pécs; Lundsgaard, Copenhagen; Lussich-Matkovic, Zagreb; Marquez, Madrid; M. Nakashima and S. Myashita, Japan; J. Park Lewis, Buffalo; Walter R. Parker, Detroit; C. Pascheff, Sofia; Pavia, Buenos Aires; Soria, Barcelona; Symansky, Warsaw; Charles Weiss, United States; W. H. Wilder, Chicago; R. E. Wright, Madras; M. Zachert, Poland. The spread of trachoma and the necessity of the campaign against it were set forth in an exhaustive report by Lutrario and Jitta, delegates of the Comité d'hygiène of the League of Nations. It was resolved to form an international league, in accordance with the motion of Van der Hoeve. Dr. Emile de Grosz, professor of ophthalmology at the University of Budapest, was appointed president, and Dr. F. Wibaut, secretary. They were entrusted with the formation of a committee from among the delegates of the ophthalmic societies and leagues already existing. The president was authorized to communicate with the Comité d'hygiène of the

League of Nations and the Rockefeller Foundation to endeavor to enlist their aid in the movement.

AN extensive trip by the department of geology of Princeton University is being planned for next summer, when the party will make a journey of more than 10,000 miles throughout the United States. Under the leadership of Professor Richard M. Field, chairman of the department, an investigation of the principal natural resources of the United States and their relation to national and international trade and transportation will be made. Besides a number of American scientific men, the party will include representatives from Germany, England, France and probably Italy and Japan. Among these will be Dr. Hans Schneiderhohn, professor of economic geology at the University of Freiberg, and Dr. Harbort, lecturer in the Technische Hochschule, Berlin.

A gift of \$50,000 to the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, by its president, Albert C. Burrage, was announced at the inaugural meeting of the society. Mr. Burrage stipulates that this gift is to be divided into two funds, one amounting to \$30,000 and the other to \$20,000. The income from the former is to be used to purchase books for the society's library, already recognized as the largest and best horticultural library in the world. The income from the second fund is to be used for a gold cup to be awarded at the end of each year for the best exhibit which has been made at any of the society's exhibitions in the course of that year. Another gift of \$2,500 came from W. N. Craig, of Weymouth, to be used for the improvement of lilies.

## DISCUSSION

### BACTERIUM GRANULOSIS AND TRACHOMA

Two expeditions to Indian schools in the southwest for the purpose of confirming Dr. Noguchi's work on trachoma<sup>1</sup> were undertaken in May and September, 1929. The invaluable cooperation of Drs. F. I. Proctor, P. Richards and J. F. Lane in this work is hereby gratefully acknowledged.

Three types of cases have been examined: first, cases of undoubted trachoma in pupils who had been in school for some time and had received treatment in the usual way; second, similar cases which had received no treatment, and finally, untreated cases of recent onset. Noguchi's original isolations of *Bacterium granulosis*, on his expedition to the southwest in 1926, were obtained with advanced untreated cases, and our isolations have so far been obtained either from untreated cases or cases which had had no treatment for several months previous to culturing. However, it is probable that treated cases can be made

to yield *Bacterium granulosis* by repeated bacteriological examination.

Our first expedition yielded two strains of *Bacterium granulosis* from two advanced untreated cases. Negative results were obtained in five advanced cases which were undergoing treatment and in three cases in which the diagnosis was uncertain. The cultures were made on horse blood agar and on the Noguchi semisolid leptospira medium and examined on our return to New York, nine days after their preparation.

Our second expedition yielded four strains, two from advanced cases, with abundant scar tissue, one from a case in which the formation of scar tissue was just beginning and one from a recent case in which no scar tissue was present. These four cases had received no treatment for six months previous to culturing. Eleven advanced cases undergoing treatment yielded no *Bacterium granulosis*, nor did six cases in which the diagnosis of trachoma was doubtful.

<sup>1</sup> H. Noguchi, *J. Exper. Med.*, 48, Suppl. No. 2, 1928.

The strains of *Bacterium granulosis* obtained by us agreed culturally in all respects with the Noguchi bacterium. Two were tested individually in *Macacus rhesus*, both inducing the characteristic granular lesions of the conjunctiva. Three other strains isolated by us, when pooled and inoculated, produced in four of five monkeys typical experimental trachomatous lesions of marked severity, appearing first on the twelfth day and progressing to abundant development during the following six weeks.

E. B. TILDEN

J. R. TYLER

THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE  
FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

### THE PASSENGER PIGEON

It is commonly believed that the passenger pigeon, so frequently seen through the middle west about fifty years ago, has ceased to exist on this continent. Several reports to the contrary have appeared from time to time, but it has usually been concluded by those in a position to know that these reports have concerned either the dove or the band-tailed pigeon from the west.

An article in the *Detroit News* for January 5 by Mr. Kendrick Kimball, staff correspondent of the *News*, reports some observations of interest made by Mr. Robert H. Wright, of Munissing, Michigan (Upper Peninsula), and by Dr. Samuel R. Landes, of Traverse City. The former is said to have observed a pair of passenger pigeons on highway M-28, about sixteen miles from Munissing, on June 10, 1929. They were in the road and he approached within ten feet of them—sufficiently close for him and his family to note the sheen on the neck and the red eyes. Dr. Landes, driving from Florida, observed a flock of about fifteen between Indianapolis and Kokomo. Both these men were said to be quite familiar with this species, having hunted and plucked hundreds of the birds in Michigan and Missouri, respectively, in the late seventies.

The article by Mr. Kimball has served as the incentive for me to report an observation made in the wilds of the North Peninsula of Michigan during the second week of September last.

An old friend, Mr. Foard, of Marquette, and myself were finishing a day devoted to running out lines of a tract of some six hundred acres of my summer camp on the north shore of Lake Huron, near Beaver Tail Point, about twelve miles east of Les Cheneaux. The country is wild, practically uninhabited, and lies mostly in "burnings" interspersed with patches of fresh growth of spruce, poplar and some old timber.

About six-thirty in the evening we were still some five miles from camp, pushing a line through the

scrub and attempting to locate a trail. We had just paused to get our direction when Mr. Foard pointed to the top of a tall, dead white birch and said, "There's a passenger pigeon; I have seen several the last few years." I had to turn in order to look, and then the bird was already in flight, perhaps a hundred feet away. All that I could see was that it had the shape of a pigeon and a somewhat pointed tail. Mr. Foard had the better view and had seen the bird several moments before he spoke. While I can not therefore verify this report, I have great faith in Mr. Foard's powers of observation. His entire life has been spent in the woods of northern Michigan, as land agent and trespass agent for the government. Few in the state, I dare say, know more about the denizens of the Michigan woods than he. The deer, the bear, the timber-wolf and the birds have been his companions for forty years, and he knows them and their ways. As he told me when we continued our way homeward, discussing the strange disappearance of the passenger pigeon, he had often hunted the birds in the years around 1878 in this same country and knew them too well to be mistaken. Since their long disappearance he had seen none until quite recent times.

It seems to me that these three observations by Michigan men, all of whom knew the passenger pigeon in the old days, serve seriously to raise the question that has been propounded by Mr. Kimball in his newspaper article: "Has the passenger pigeon come back?" The northern peninsula of Michigan was once a famous nesting ground for this species, and it is hoped that the residents of this delightful region will continue to make special effort to recognize and report this assumedly extinct species whose sudden disappearance constitutes one of the greatest recent biological tragedies of the American continent.

PHILIP HADLEY

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

### SEVERE HAIL INJURY TO TREES AND SHRUBS

ONE evening last summer, as the writer was returning home from a trip through southern Illinois, his attention was attracted by the peculiar appearance presented by the trees growing in a cemetery at the north edge of Marion, the county-seat of Williamson County, Illinois. As seen from the road, the foliage on practically all these trees appeared to be in crowded, rosette-like bunches on the larger limbs, while the small limbs were conspicuously dead and barren. It was almost dusk at the time, and as there were many miles yet to be driven, there was little inclination to tarry long enough to make a detailed examination of the trees. Later, however, on another trip to the locality, made on October 13, in company with Dr. Benjamin Koehler, crop pathologist at the