

gust, 1914, when the steamship *Ancon* passed through it from ocean to ocean.

At this distance of time and space the episodes related may seem trivial. Only one who was on the ground, charged with tremendous responsibilities, can comprehend the magnitude of the issues at stake. A rejection of the mosquito theory at that juncture would probably have meant the indefinite postponement of the canal project.

I have said that I did not then deem it possible that President Roosevelt would uphold the elimination of Colonel Gorgas, but an occurrence which took place some years later gave me food for thought. Some time after Mr. Taft had become President, Colonel Roosevelt sent me an invitation to call upon him, which I did at the office of the *Outlook* magazine in New York. After some preliminary talk he told me that friction among officials on the canal had reached such a point that changes would have to be made, and that he thought Colonel Gorgas would have to go. He said that he was well aware that I knew more of Gorgas and his work than any man, and asked if in my opinion he should be kept.

It is needless to repeat what I told him. It was emphatic and to the point, and I closed by saying that if Gorgas were removed it would be a stupid blunder. Colonel Roosevelt pounded the desk in his usual vehement manner and exclaimed, "That settles it; Gorgas stays." Which he did, through what influences one can only conjecture.

I have thought, since that time, that possibly it was just as well that the issue was not raised to a

finality in July, 1905. I had reason to know that the President then had great confidence in the chairman, but the status of the chief engineer in that respect had yet to be demonstrated. I did not have faith enough in the result to wish the matter put to a test.

In the year 1914, when Gorgas was Surgeon-General, I received a letter from him, reading in part as follows:

I have a very clear and grateful recollection of the support and friendship you always gave me on the isthmus. I knew very well that you were the only one of the chief officials who believed in the sanitary work we were doing, and who was not taking active measures to oppose us. The fact is that you are the only one of the higher officials on the isthmus who always supported the Sanitary Department, and I mean this to apply to the whole ten years, both before and after your time, so you can understand that our relations, yours and mine, stand out in my memory of the very trying ten years I spent on the isthmus as a green and pleasant oasis.

Only fragmentary accounts of these episodes have ever been related, and as now that every one of those officials who were directly concerned with them, President, Secretary of War, governor, General Gorgas—every one excepting myself—has passed beyond the sphere of human activities, it seems fitting that while first-hand knowledge of the matters then at issue is yet available, it should become a part of the history of the construction of the canal, for it is not believed that the full significance of these events has ever been appreciated.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

TROPICAL DISEASES EXHIBIT AT ANTWERP

ACCORDING to *The British Medical Journal* the Antwerp Exhibition was opened by the King of the Belgians on April 26. The Tropical Diseases Section, in the British Government Building, was organized under the auspices of the Exhibitions Branch of the Board of Trade, and is under the direction of a committee, of which Major-General Sir Wilfred Beveridge is chairman. The exhibit has been designed to impress upon the general public the importance of knowledge of health matters to those who live under tropical conditions. It also depicts certain dangers and the means by which they may be combated. A complete outline of thirteen important tropical diseases is presented by means of serial illuminated pictures, illustrating the causation, manifestations, treatment and prevention of each disease. Above each series are placed enlarged photographs of work which has been carried out in connection with the

disease under consideration. Above these photographs are illuminated statistics showing the beneficial results to the community of such preventive treatment. The organisms responsible for various tropical diseases—protozoa, helminths and bacteria—are demonstrated by color photomicrography in six specially constructed viewing cases. Some of the diseases are dealt with in greater detail in six cases prepared and lent by the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, and several excellent wax models of the insect vectors of diseases are shown. Enlarged photographs have been prepared of men who have laid down their lives in the investigation of diseases prevalent in tropical countries; this exhibit indicates the special dangers attaching to research work in yellow fever and typhus. A model of the new London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, taken in conjunction with the Liverpool School exhibit, emphasizes the fact that the importance of education in tropical medicine is recognized. The care

of those suffering from tropical diseases is largely in the hands of the Seamen's Hospital Society, which has prepared an exhibit illustrating the work done by their hospitals. Two small historical exhibits are shown dealing with plague and leprosy in olden times. In the "Manson" exhibit the memory of the "Father of modern tropical medicine" is honored. The Wellcome Museum of Medical Science has been responsible for the detailed organization of the whole exhibit and also for the preparation of all transparencies, photomicrographs and statistics.

THE GERMAN ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTIFIC MEN AND PHYSICIANS

It is stated in *Nature* that the German Association for Natural Science and Medicine has visited in recent years Innsbruck in the south, Düsseldorf in the west and Hamburg in the north. This year the association will proclaim science and civilization at Königsberg in the far east of Prussia. The invitation circular is not to members of the association alone, but also to all who honor German science, and makes welcome the participation of foreign savants who feel themselves in contact with German research. This ninety-first assembly of the "Gesellschaft Deutscher Naturforscher und Aerzte" takes place on September 7-11, 1930. There will be general addresses, a short program of sectional meetings and numerous joint discussions. Festivities are to be limited in favor of the call of learning. The main topics include protoplasm, bird migration, logic and natural science, the natural system of the elements, agriculture and economics. The medical side will discuss blood pigments and bacteria, and will combine with biologists to discuss inheritance and with physicists to consider the eye. Joint discussions will deal with the cosmic frequency of the elements, the age of the earth, the synthesis of silicates and cosmic radiation. Botanists and agriculturalists will discuss meteorology. Various allied scientific societies are holding their meetings at the same time and place. The program of excursions includes the neighboring sand-dunes, lagoons, bathing-resorts, fresh-water lakes and historic monuments. Longer journeys include Finland for mineralogists before the meeting, and after the meeting Leningrad and Moscow. Königsberg can be reached from Berlin without any further visa, passport or tax; eight times daily by train in 9-10 hours; by fast motor-ship *via* Swinemünde-Zoppot-Pillau, 18 hours at sea; also thrice daily by air in 4-5 hours. The subscription for those attending the meetings, but not regular members, is 25 rm.; applications should be sent to Secretary G.D.N.A., Professor Dr. Rassow, Leipzig C.I, Gustav-Adolfstr. 12, and if possible by mid-May by those wishing to join excursions.

A GOVERNMENT GAME RESERVATION

A SPECIAL correspondent of *The Christian Science Monitor* reports that if proposed legislation now before the House of Representatives is passed, a great game preserve capable of providing food and resting places for more than 200,000 birds at one time and of producing more than 1,000,000 in a year will be added to the national reserves of the United States government.

The Senate has already passed a bill providing for the expenditure of \$300,000 for the purchase of the shallow lake which has since 1927 covered a barren area of about 20,000 acres in Barton County, Kansas, known as the Cheyenne Bottoms. Mr. Clifford R. Hope, representative from Kansas, is reported to have said that with the support which the Department of Agriculture has indirectly given to the bill its passage is assured.

Adherents of the measure point out that the Cheyenne Bottoms are situated in the path of the migrations from Alaska to the south. Banding of the birds has shown that those which frequent the Bottoms come from Alaska and many parts of Canada and go as far south as Yucatan. They come in thousands and in great variety.

Immediate action on the measure is necessary as efforts are being made by owners of the land over which the lake now flows to have it drained. They have an investment in the property and feel that some return can be obtained by its use for grazing if it can first be drained. In 1928 they formed a company for this purpose. Opposition of various societies and groups interested in the preservation of wild bird life was strong enough to procure an injunction against the drainage proceedings. But owners can not be permanently restrained from treating their property as they wish. Therefore the federal government is being approached in hope that the entire district may be purchased and formed into a migratory bird reserve.

If obtained for the nation the Cheyenne Bottoms would be cared for under the provisions of the Norbeck-Anthony bill which furnishes appropriations for the work of the Biological Survey.

THE COAL RESEARCH LABORATORY OF THE CARNEGIE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

GIFTS amounting to \$425,000 to extend over a five-year period for the establishment and maintenance of a coal research laboratory at the Carnegie Institute of Technology have been announced by Dr. Thomas S. Baker, president of the institute.

The Buhl Foundation of Pittsburgh is the largest single donor to the project, contributing \$50,000 at