

the age of seventy-seven years. We learn from the *London Times* that his interest in natural history was not confined to librarianship, for he conducted a number of researches on the borderline between zoology and geology, a subject in which his uncle, the late Dr. Henry Woodward, formerly keeper of geology in the British Museum, and his brother, the late Mr. H. B. Woodward, of the Geological Survey, both achieved distinction.

AN Associated Press dispatch reports that Dr. Werner Borchardt, of the Hamburg Tropical Institute, is believed to have lost his life while making observations of an eruption of the Volcano Merapi in Sumatra. Dr. Borchardt was about thirty years old and had been loaned by the Hamburg Institute for a year to the Sumatra Institute to carry out research work on the influence of temperature on the blood and kindred subjects.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTIFIC WORKERS

THE Association of Scientific Workers, according to a note in *Nature*, in spite of the financial stringency with which it, like other good causes, is afflicted, still adds to its record of achievement. During the past few months it has prepared, and submitted to the Royal Commission on the Civil Service, a formidable body of evidence dealing with the position of the scientific civil servant *vis-à-vis* his administrative colleague, and advocating the unification of all the state scientific services under a Ministry of Science. At the same time, the association has prepared an index of references to science and cognate matters in the parliamentary debates, and through its general secretary, Major A. G. Church, M.P., has formed a parliamentary science committee. This committee, consisting of members of both houses and all parties, meets periodically to hear the views of acknowledged experts on scientific questions which bear on public affairs.

Some years ago the association issued an appeal for members, in the form of a letter signed by some of the most prominent men of science in Great Britain. This letter was sent to about 20,000 scientific workers, and resulted in a large increase of membership. At the present time the association is sending out another such appeal, on a much more elaborate scale. It consists of a sixteen-page booklet entitled "The Profession of Science," containing articles by Sir Richard Gregory, Professor Julian Huxley, and others, with messages from Sir Ernest Rutherford, Sir William Bragg, the Right Honorable W. G. A. Ormsby-Gore and Professor F. G. Donnan, and a preface by Sir Daniel Hall as president of the association. The booklet is being sent to 25,000 scientific workers, and at the same time a card index of qualified scientific men is being prepared, with the intention of preserving it and keeping it continually up-to-date. In this way, as a by-product of the association's own propagandist activities, information is being collected which will prove invaluable when it becomes possible to create an authoritative register of the profession of

science, such as the professions of law, medicine, dental surgery and teaching already possess. Work on this card index has been in progress for four weeks, and it is already clear that the figure of 25,000 falls considerably short of the total of qualified workers in Great Britain.

BIRD SANCTUARIES

PURCHASE of land for migratory game-bird refuges in four states was authorized on December 18 by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission.

The four proposed refuges had been surveyed previously by biologists and land valuation experts of the Biological Survey, and the Department of Agriculture had approved their acquisition as units in the nation-wide system of refuges authorized by the Congress.

The new Florida refuge will extend about 12 miles along Apalachee Bay, in Wakulla, Jefferson and Taylor counties, and will be known as the St. Marks Migratory Bird Refuge. It will contain 13,981 acres.

The new purchases in California will add 8,982 acres to the Salton Sea Wild Life Refuge, created by Executive Order of November 25, 1930. The purchase authorized, together with the public lands recently set aside by the President, will create a refuge of more than 24,715 acres for waterfowl and other migrants in the Imperial Valley.

The Swanquarter Migratory Bird Refuge will be established in North Carolina under the new authorization. This will consist of 11,778 acres in Hyde County, on Pamlico Sound, and together with intermingled areas of water will make an administrative unit of about 20,000 acres.

In the sandhills of western Nebraska the purchase of 39,038 acres is authorized for the establishment of a migratory bird refuge in an area resorted to by great numbers of waterfowl in the nesting season. This is in Garden County and will be known as the Crescent Lake Migratory Bird Refuge.

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, which was created by the act providing for a ten-year