

Financial Aid

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The work of my co-author and editor, Miss Helen Ann Warren, should be especially praised not only for its thoroughness and accuracy but for the rare quality of sustained interest and enthusiasm for the subject shown, especially in the introductory chapter entitled "Pioneers of Paleontology in America" which is very largely her own assemblage and writing, guided, of course, by the author, also in the biographic narrative of Chapter II which from the standpoint of the newer education seems the most

opportune in this biography. The old education seems to have been altogether ideal in the case of Cope. Then we pass to Cope's experience in the university of the world and find him fully equipped for his great career.

I am confident that all who have taken part in the preparation of this volume will feel fully rewarded by the thought that they have helped to write a great chapter in the history of American science, namely, of a period covering the lives and labors of our three founders of vertebrate paleontology, Leidy, Marsh and Cope, a branch of science in which America has won a place of honor and esteem throughout the world. I trust also that this volume will firmly establish the permanent reputation of Edward Drinker Cope as a "Master Naturalist."

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE BALTIC GEODETIC COMMISSION

THE Baltic Geodetic Commission is an organization for dealing with the geodetic problems of the many nations surrounding the Baltic Sea. It recognizes the fact that geodesy is no respecter of national frontiers. The nine member countries are Denmark, Esthonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden. The fifth conference of the commission was held in Copenhagen last October. The member nations, except Russia, were all represented by accredited delegates, and in addition Norway and Austria were represented by invited guests. Six sessions were held for the consideration of business matters and reports; scientific papers were also presented and visits made to scientific institutions in and near Copenhagen.

The Baltic Commission has already gained a high reputation for the careful geodetic work done under its auspices and for its high scientific standards. The comparatively small number of its members, their nearness to one another and the frequency of the meetings all contribute to the close cooperation and to the interchange of experience that are so favorable to good work and rapid progress.

The commission is, however, considering the widening of its field of work. According to the convention establishing the commission any country desiring to join the commission is entitled to do so. At the Copenhagen meeting, moreover, there was some discussion of a very ambitious project that far transcends the geodetic survey of the Baltic area, namely, the extension of the existing geodetic arc along the 52nd parallel in Europe into Asia as far as Bering Strait and thence across the strait into Alaska, where it would connect with Alaskan triangulation, which in turn will soon be connected with geodetic triangulation in Canada. In this way the longest geodetic arc in

the world would be formed. This would be a great achievement, but it will probably be some time before such a scheme can be carried out. Even the existing portion of the arc in Europe needs to be strengthened in various ways and it is still to be proved that it is feasible to make an adequate geodetic connection across Bering Strait.

Professor Kohlschütter, of Potsdam, was elected president, succeeding Professor Nörlund, of Copenhagen, who was chosen vice-president. Professor Bonsdorff, of Helsinki, continues to serve as general secretary.

The information on which this notice is based was supplied in part by Professor Schumann, of Vienna, who attended the meeting as a guest and representative of Austria.

W. D. L.

THE INTERNATIONAL BIOLOGICAL CONGRESS AT MONTEVIDEO

FROM October 8 to 12 there was held at Montevideo a Biological Congress as one of the events designed to celebrate the centenary of Uruguayan independence. A Medical Congress ran concurrently. The national government assisted those in charge by providing honoraria for a number of foreign delegates. Among these were Professor Gustav Embden, of Frankfurt; Professor Pedro Rondoni, of Milan; Professor Claude Regaud and A. Mawas, of Paris; Professor Wolfgang Koehler, of Berlin, and Professor Edwin Baur, of Munich. Each South American country sent delegates representing its institutions. There were probably 200 in attendance. Plenary sessions were held each morning. The afternoons were devoted to visits to laboratories, museums and other institutions of local significance, while the evenings were used for sectional