

kerly, Beyer professor of zoology in the University of Manchester, known especially for his researches on the Protozoa, on February 11, aged forty-nine years; of the Honorable Sir Charles Parsons, whose name is associated particularly with the development of the steam turbine, on February 12, and of Mr. W. G. Robson, lecturer in natural philosophy in the University of St. Andrews, on February 16.

MEMORIALS

THE centenary of the Harveian Society of London is to be celebrated in June. According to the program, as printed in *The British Medical Journal*, the opening meeting, at which an oration will be delivered by Dr. Raymond Crawford, will be held on June 11 at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, with Sir Thomas Horder,

Bt., in the chair. It is proposed to ask delegates from all the medical societies in London and the surrounding districts; after the oration tea will be served and an exhibition of Harvey relics opened. On June 12 the Buckston Browne dinner will be held at the Grocers' Hall, with H. R. H. Prince Arthur of Connaught as the principal guest. On June 13 there will be a pilgrimage to Hempstead Church, Essex, where William Harvey is buried. A short service, conducted by the Bishop of Colechester, is to be held at 12 noon, and on the return journey it is proposed to visit Rolls Park, Chigwell, where Harvey lived at one time. The present owner, Lady Lloyd, has very kindly consented to entertain any members and friends of the society. After tea Sir D'Arcy Power will give a short address on William Harvey's association with Rolls Park.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

AN article in the *Journal* of the American Medical Association states that there are about 2,000 fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons and 18,000 members. The fellows pass a higher examination in surgery and are designated F.R.C.S. They are surgeons in the full sense of the term and generally are members of hospital staffs. Many of them practice only surgery or one of its special branches. They include all who are eminent in English surgery. The members pass a lower examination, devised for those who will engage in general practice, and are designated M.R.C.S. They usually practice surgery only in a minor form, their working being mainly medical. The college is governed by the council, which is elected from and by the fellows. The only occasion on which the members have an opportunity to say anything as to the government of the college is the annual meeting of members and fellows, when they can bring forward resolutions, which are submitted to the council. At this meeting they have for forty-two years passed a resolution that the members should be given the power to elect representatives on the council. This the council has always refused. At the 1929 meeting the members were twitted by the president, Lord Moynihan, with the fact that the number who attended was small (about fifty) and that he always saw the same faces. There was therefore no evidence that representation was desired by the members at large. At the 1930 meeting, which recently took place, the members demanding representation replied by bringing forward the result of a poll taken by postcard in Great Britain and the Irish Free State. This showed that for 12,766 cards sent out 6,832 votes were received in favor of representation and

only 156 against. At the meeting, much was made of this; the argument was the "justice" of the claim for representation of nine tenths of the college roll and the need to protect the members against unqualified practitioners. When a vote was taken, the request for representation was carried by 43 votes to 1. The president said in reply that the question of representation of the members had always been regarded by the council as of the gravest importance and that a special meeting would be held to consider the resolution. At this meeting the council adopted the following resolution:

The main functions of the college are to promote and encourage the art and science of surgery for the common weal, and for this purpose to conduct the examinations of the college and to maintain the great museum and library placed under its care. In carrying out these functions the council organizes lectures and demonstrations, provides facilities for and encourages research, fosters social intercourse and the amenities of the profession, and in every way possible renders the college an instrument for the advancement of surgery in its widest sense, not only for the benefit of the members and fellows, but the whole profession throughout the empire. In the opinion of the council these functions are well carried out under the present constitution; after further and prolonged deliberation the council has therefore decided that it is not desirable to alter the constitution of the college by providing for the direct and separate representation of members of the college upon the council. The decision of the council is in conformity with the opinion expressed three years ago by the body of fellows of the college who are the electorate.

THE STATE PARKS AND FORESTS OF NEW JERSEY

IN a report submitted to the New Jersey Legislature on March 2 and reported in the *New York Times*,

the State Board of Conservation and Development recommended a ten-year program to cost about \$7,500,000 for acquisition of a system of state parks and forests. Request was made for an appropriation of \$730,000 for such work in the coming fiscal year.

New Jersey has been backward compared with many other states, in the acquisition of such lands. The board states that "the unrestricted use of even the wilderness areas for outdoor recreation is rapidly passing."

For the money asked, it was estimated that 124,500 acres could be acquired for new state forests and parks, 765 acres for seashore parks and 216,167 acres for additions to existing parks and forests.

Within the area north of Trenton it was recommended that four new state forests and parks be established, one of which would comprise 5,000 acres between Rocky Hill and Monmouth Junction. Two of the others would be in Hunterdon County, where the purchase of a wooded area of 2,500 acres just west of Whitehouse and 10,000 acres between West Portal and the Delaware River was suggested. The fourth would embrace 5,000 acres in Bergen and Passaic Counties.

Existing state parks and forests in the same area would be expanded under the board's plan. Holdings on the Kittatinny Mountains in Sussex and Warren Counties would be increased from 21,000 to 60,000 acres, and the Jeny Jump Mountain Forest, which consists of 323 acres with approximately 1,000 more under contract for purchase, would be extended to a minimum of 8,000 acres. To the 519 acres of the Swartswood State Park 200 would be added and 100 acres acquired to round out the holdings at Lake Hopatcong. The Hacklebarney State Forest in Morris County would be increased from 123 to 1,200 acres.

The Voorhees State Park, near High Bridge, would be expanded under the plan to 750 acres. The Washington Crossing Park would also be extended.

Establishment of five seashore parks was recommended by the board. These would include 30 acres of beach, just north of Seaside Heights, 100 acres south of Seaside Park, 35 acres in the vicinity of Barnegat Inlet, where the state now owns the land on which the historic Barnegat Light is located; 500 acres to be known as Harvey Cedars Park, which would be below Barnegat, and 100 acres extending from the sea to the bay below Beach Haven.

In the area below Trenton and South Amboy three new parks and forests would be developed and the areas of existing reservations would be extended.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

SCIENCE SERVICE reports that authorization for sufficient funds to allow this country to participate in the Second Polar Year in 1932-33 and in the International Geological Congress in 1932, failed to pass

the House in the closing hours of the session because of objections to consideration on the part of certain members.

A program for soil erosion work and technical study of conservation of rainfall for the Bureau of Agricultural Engineering passed the Senate, but failed of passage in the House.

The oleomargarin law was amended so as to put all yellow colored margarins under the ten cent per pound tax previously applied only to those margarins artificially colored. The new regulations are to be applied because of the recent development of natural colored palm oil margarin.

The maternity and infancy aid act passed both Senate and House, but with such differences that the conference report, though accepted by the House, did not come to a vote in the Senate. The House added to the Senate bill's authorization of such work by the U. S. Children's Bureau, an amendment providing for the setting up of county rural health units to be administered by the U. S. Public Health Service.

The Bureau of Plant Industry and the U. S. Forest Service were provided by this congress with a large fund for fighting white pine blister rust in western forests. The total amount in various bills ran well over \$700,000. In the national forests alone there are five billion feet of merchantable white pine timber worth \$25,000,000, in addition to one million acres of young white pine worth about \$180 per acre. On privately owned lands there is also an immense acreage which would be a great loss if infected with the rapidly spreading blister rust. Currant and gooseberry bushes spread the disease. The Bureau of Plant Industry will cooperate with states and individual timber owners in the work of eradication this year.

The Bureau of Mines was authorized to establish a Mining Experiment Station at College Park, Maryland. A bill authorizing the collection of crime statistics passed both houses and was signed by the President.

Isle Royale in Lake Superior was made a national park, but the Everglades National Park bill failed to get through the House, though it passed the Senate.

A memorial in Washington to the late Stephen T. Mather, former head of the U. S. National Park Service, was authorized. The Stephen T. Mather Appreciation Committee has long had in mind several methods of preserving to the nation's memory the work of the father of the national park system. The memorial in Washington is only one of these. Another plan is to erect in each of the 23 national parks and 33 national monuments a bronze plaque decorated with a bas relief bust of Mather, an epitome to his work, and a sentence or two from his writings about national parks.