

The greatest need of the laboratory is an adequate endowment. At the present time nine institutions are subscribing for tables at \$300. Donations total \$600, and there are various minor sources of income which make the total receipts \$5,583.10. An endowment that would be modest compared with that of many biological laboratories would greatly increase the effectiveness of the station. Dr. Barbour believes "there is no place in the world where so small a sum would so greatly aid biological research." The following resolutions adopted by the Inter-American Conference on Agriculture, September 13, 1930, illustrate the esteem in which the studies being conducted and those possible at Barro Colorado Island are held by tropical agriculturalists:

The Inter-American Conference on Agriculture, considering that

*Whereas*, the Department of Agriculture of Porto Rico, the experiment station of the United Fruit Company in Tela, Honduras, and the biological station in *Barro Colorado*, in the Canal Zone, have been conducting investigations along special lines of tropical agriculture and forestry, and making the results of this work available as far as possible to several Latin American countries;

*Resolved*, (1) To express appreciation for these valuable services, and the hope that they will be further ex-

panded, and that in the future closer cooperation will be established with other experiment stations and agencies of scientific research in the countries of America.

(2) That an endeavor be made to obtain the cooperation of the experiment stations in the countries of America now equipped to render a Pan American service, such as the experiment stations of Porto Rico, the experiment station of the United Fruit Company in Honduras, the Barro Colorado Island Biological Station in Panama, and stations in other countries of America which have facilities for such services for special investigations of problems the solution of which is most urgent for agriculture, forestry and animal husbandry in the countries of tropical America.

There is the further need of support for studies without immediate utilitarian possibilities. To this end the Institute for Research in Tropical America, which is the organization legally back of the Barro Colorado Laboratory, is seeking an endowment of \$100,000. This proposal received endorsement by the executive board of the National Research Council at its meeting in April, 1931. The laboratory has demonstrated its usefulness and should be relieved of its present financial uncertainties.

W. C. CURTIS,  
Chairman Division of Biology and  
Agriculture, National Research  
Council

## QUOTATIONS

### THE CAPPER AWARD

WHEN Ossian heard "the call of years" he lamented that no bard would "raise his fame." But the great entomologist Dr. L. O. Howard, whose middle name recalls the legendary Gaelic hero of the third century, needs no poet to sing his deeds in fighting for a half century the forces which "constitute to-day our greatest rivals in the control of nature"—the injurious insects. He has been recognized in a more substantial and significant way: he has been awarded the Capper Gold Medal for distinguished service to agriculture, and through it to those who live by it or on its fruits. The award also includes an honorarium of \$5,000.

No one in all the world better deserves such recognition than this entomological warrior in "the oldest war in history," between mankind and the insect myriads. The only hope that the human race has of winning is in uniting its scientific forces in research and attack and in dividing the enemy—encouraging conflicts among the insects themselves, even nourishing parasitic battalions in laboratories to prey upon other insects and so maintain a balance that will permit crops to grow, flowers to bud and blossom, trees

to bear fruit and the "higher" creatures to live and pursue happiness.

Dr. Howard has been and is a master of such strategy in fighting these lilliputian enemies, which are much more experienced in the ways of this planet, having lived here, as he reminds us, 50,000,000 years, while man arrived barely 500,000 years ago, and are "the most perfectly adapted of all creatures to live under all sorts of conditions." Fortunately for man, they fight among themselves and prey upon one another—the fleas on smaller fleas, and so on, as Jonathan Swift said in reporting the naturalist's observations, *ad infinitum*. But the surpassing achievement of this master entomologist has been to recruit insect allies and mercenaries from the lower biological orders for his campaigns against specific pests, even bringing them from other lands and sending American expeditions overseas to aid other countries.

Yet the warfare is not over. A few years ago Dr. Howard estimated that the annual loss due to the ravages of insects in the United States alone exceeded \$2,000,000,000, nullifying the labor of 1,000,000 men annually. And as to the recruiting by the

enemy, he quotes approvingly even later and astounding statistics which assert that the plant lice descended from one individual of one species in a single season, where there is enough food, would weigh more than five times as much as all the people of the earth.

The award to Dr. Howard calls attention not only to his valiant service as a leader in this warfare, but also to the importance of the struggle in the agricultural world, where only the ingenuity of man can prevent the supremacy of the insect.—*The New York Times*.

## SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

### THE ILLINOIS ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

THE twenty-fourth annual meeting of the Illinois State Academy of Science was held in Peoria on May 8 and 9, 1931. General addresses were given on the following subjects:

"Research, Its Opportunities and Rewards," F. R. Jelliff, Galesburg, retiring president.

"Genesis of an Industry," W. Hoskins, Chicago.

"Physics and Physical Chemistry," T. R. Hogness, University of Chicago.

"Chemical Messengers," A. C. Ivy, Northwestern University Medical School.

"From Chance to Certainty in Education," F. G. Blair, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Springfield.

"Saving Illinois Streams from Pollution," H. F. Ferguson, Department of Public Health, Springfield.

The following resolution was adopted:

Realizing the large value and great importance of research along many lines and the benefits accruing to the people from inventions, explorations and discoveries in science, often the result of patient, persistent and painstaking endeavor, resolved that the Illinois State Academy of Science, while fully appreciating the recognition accorded such work, would respectfully recommend that Congress add to this the establishment of financial awards for the most noteworthy and valuable inventions and discoveries in the several branches of science, to be bestowed under such conditions as Congress may direct.

The officers elected for the year 1931-32 were:

*President:* Fay-Cooper Cole, University of Chicago.

*First Vice-president:* Frank C. Baker, University of Illinois.

*Secretary:* Harold R. Wanless, University of Illinois.

*Treasurer:* George D. Fuller, University of Chicago.

*Librarian:* A. S. Coggeshall, State Museum, Springfield.

*Editor:* Dorothy E. Rose, State Geological Survey, Urbana.

The following were chosen as chairmen of committees:

*Membership:* D. L. Carroll, State Geological Survey.

*Affiliation:* H. J. Van Cleave, University of Illinois.

*Ecological Survey:* A. G. Vestal, University of Illinois.

*Conservation:* H. C. Cowles, University of Chicago.

*Legislation and Finance:* F. R. Jelliff, Galesburg.

*State Hall of Fame:* M. M. Leighton, State Geological Survey.

Sectional chairmen selected for the next annual meeting are:

*Zoology:* F. C. Hottes, Millikin University, Decatur.

*Physics and Chemistry:* C. L. Cross, Illinois State Teachers' College, Normal.

*Geology:* T. E. Savage, University of Illinois.

*Geography:* Mabel Crompton, Illinois State Teachers College, Normal.

*Psychology and Education:* M. M. Maynard, Monmouth College, Monmouth.

The meeting was attended by about 800, including a large delegation of the junior section of the academy. Science exhibits prepared by high-school students were shown. Geological, biological and industrial field trips were taken to points of interest near Peoria on May 9.

H. R. WANLESS,  
*Secretary*

### THE TENNESSEE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

THE spring meeting of the Tennessee Academy of Science was held at the University of Tennessee, in Knoxville, on Friday and Saturday, May 8 and 9. East Tennessee was represented on the program with sixteen papers and Middle Tennessee with nine. After a dinner on Friday evening the members by invitation of the University Student Body attended a lecture by Mr. Lorado Taft, sculptor, on "My Dream Museum." At the dinner Professor H. A. Webb substituted with a humorous pseudo-scientific narrative for Dr. E. E. Reinke, who on account of illness was prevented from giving an address on "A Mountain Station in the South for Biological Research." A trip to the Bird Preserve, near Knoxville, scheduled for from 6 to 8 o'clock Saturday morning and an excursion to the Great Smoky Mountains for Saturday afternoon had to be given up on account of a downpour of rain.

Mr. Henry Colton and Dr. L. C. Glenn were appointed a committee on State Aid to the Academy. The editor of the *Journal* was authorized to proceed