greatest pressure—namely, February to April, 1932. Attention is drawn to the assistance which the public, especially parents, can give. Despite much propaganda, the belief persists that measles can be lightly treated without medical and nursing assistance; yet during the last four years measles has caused eight times as many deaths as scarlet fever, and one and a half times as many as diphtheria. The deaths from measles in London are diminishing, however, as seen from the figures for recent quinquenniums:

1906–10	9,538	1921–25	3,859
1911–15	9,596	1926–30	3,715
1916–20	5,830		

Important points in mitigating the effects of an epidemic are: (1) to make every effort to postpone contraction of the disease until after the third or fifth year, because the younger the child the greater is the risk of serious illness; (2) to secure adequate medical, nursing and hygienic care; (3) to have regard to the fact that measles is particularly fatal among children under-nourished or living under unfavorable conditions.

WEATHER CONDITIONS IN THE NORTH POLAR REGIONS

PLANS for intensive study of weather conditions in the North Polar regions during 1932, designed to provide comprehensive information on air movements and other meteorological data as a basis for improvement of weather forecasting, were developed at the recent conference of the executive council of the International Meteorological Organization in Locarno, Switzerland. According to Dr. C. W. Marvin, chief of the United States Weather Bureau, who gave the information to a representative of the *U. S. Daily,* the program is to be carried on by practically every country with possessions in the northern hemisphere.

Plans originally developed for the studies included establishment of additional weather observatories in the Arctic regions. Some of these will be provided, but economic conditions have been such that some of the governments involved have had to curtail their plans. However, additional observations are to be made at stations already existing where new stations can not be established, and every available means to increase information on polar conditions will be used.

Canada is to establish additional stations in the northern regions. The United States already had provided extra funds for studies in Alaska, primarily with a view to development of airways, so increased funds probably will not be asked. Russia, Norway, Sweden, Greenland and other northerly nations are cooperating.

The objective is to discover the laws of physics in the atmosphere and of its great, general circulation. Information is wanted on the atmosphere from pole to pole. Whether or not the information obtained will enable extension of the period for which weather forecasts can be made accurately can not yet be foretold.

THE WILD-LIFE PROBLEM OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

As the first step toward correlating and solving the wild-life problem of the growing national park system, three representatives of the park service of the University of California, Joseph Dixon, economic mammalogist; George M. Wright, alumnus of the University of California, and Ben H. Thompson, alumnus of Stanford University, are preparing an inventory and preliminary report which has necessitated more than two years of study and 43,000 miles of travel through thirteen parks in this country and four in Canada.

Among the recommendations of the survey are: (1) the future restoration of exterminated species of birds and animals, such as wild turkey in parks of the Southwest, and mountain sheep in Yosemite; (2) development of protection for species which are threatened with extinction, such as the trumpeter swan of Yellowstone; (3) control of species which have become too abundant through increase in food supply or disappearance of natural enemies, such as deer in Yosemite and the Kaibab, and bear in the Yellowstone; (4) fixing of boundaries in present and future parks to include winter as well as summer range and protection for animals; and (5) overcoming conflict between wild-life species, or between wild-life and humans, such as the eating of planted fish by birds, and the encroachment of bears and skunks on human habitations.

The suggestion that such a survey be made came from Mr. Wright while he was serving as an assistant park naturalist in Yosemite. To overcome possible difficulties he volunteered to sponsor the survey until the government is in a position to take it over.

The ultimate purpose of the survey, after determining the immediate wild-life problems of national parks in order of urgency, is to assist Director Albright in formulating a definite wild-life policy to maintain the parks in as near to their original condition as possible through future generations. In addition it will provide the necessary data for the use of the director in organizing a permanent wild-life division in the National Park Service.

RETIREMENT OF DR. CHARLES WARDELL STILES

DR. CHARLES WARDELL STILES, who was retired from active duty in the U. S. Public Health Service on October 1, 1931, was tendered a farewell dinner

by his colleagues on October 7, at the Cosmos Club, Washington. Before entering the Public Health Service as chief of the division of zoology in the Hygienic Laboratory (now the National Institute of Health), Dr. Stiles was chief of the zoological division of the Bureau of Animal Industry. A distinguished gathering, representing the Public Health Service, Bureau of Animal Industry, Bureau of Plant Industry, Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. National Museum, the medical departments of the Army and of the Navy, the Johns Hopkins University and various other groups were present at the dinner. Dr. Hall presided and the following speakers discussed Dr. Stiles' services in connection with the topics noted: Dr. L. Stejneger, "Dr. Stiles and the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature"; Dr. Wm. H. Welch, "Medical Aspects of Dr. Stiles' Work on Hookworm"; Dr. W. S. Thayer, "Dr. Stiles and His Work in Medical Fields"; Dr. A. M. Stimson, "Dr. Stiles' Work in the Public Health Service"; Dr. T. S. Palmer, "Dr. Stiles as a Zoologist"; Dr. Paul Bartsch, "Dr. Stiles and the Helminthological Society of Washington"; Dr. C. L. Marlatt, "Dr. Stiles' Work in Entomology"; Dr. Benjamin Schwartz, "Dr. Stiles' Work in the Bureau of Animal Industry," and Dr. N. A. Cobb, "Dr. Stiles Himself."

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

AT the dinner held in connection with the New Haven meeting of the National Academy of Sciences on November 17, tributes to Othniel Charles Marsh were presented by Professors Charles Schuchert and Richard S. Lull, in memory of the one hundredth anniversary of his birth, which occurred on October 29, 1931. Marsh gave to Yale University his services, his great paleontological collections and his estate. He was president of the National Academy from 1883 to 1895.

THE Draper Medal of the National Academy was presented at its dinner to Dr. Annie Jump Cannon, curator in the Harvard Observatory, for her work on the classification of stars by means of their photographic spectra. Professor Harlow Shapley, director of the observatory, made the presentation address. The Agassiz Medal for oceanography was presented to Professor Henry Bryant Bigelow, of Harvard University, and director of the Oceanographical Institute at Woods Hole, with an address by Professor George H. Parker.

THE Frederick Ives Medal of the Optical Society of America has been awarded to Dr. Theodore Lyman, Hollis professor of mathematics and natural philosophy, emeritus, and director of the Jefferson Physical Laboratory at Harvard University.

THE John Scott Medal was presented on November 18 at the Franklin Institute to Professor Philip Drinker and to Mr. Louis Agassiz Shaw, of the School of Public Health of Harvard University, in recognition of their invention of the Drinker respirator. They presented a paper entitled "Prolonged Administration of Artificial Respiration."

GENERAL JAN CHRISTIAAN SMUTS, formerly premier of South Africa, retiring president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, has been elected rector of St. Andrews University.

IT is expected that Professor Albert Einstein will spend the winter at the California Institute of Technology.

DR. ALLEN O. WHIPPLE, professor of surgery at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, since 1921, is the first incumbent of the newly established Valentine Mott professorship of surgery. The trustees, in creating the new chair, proposed that it be so named in recognition of the "long and distinguished service of one of the most eminent surgeons in the whole history of New York."

FOLLOWING the resignation of Director James T. Jardine, of the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station, to become chief of the Office of Experiment Stations, Mr. William A. Schoenfeld, regional representative of the Federal Farm Board at Portland, has been appointed dean and director.

MR. CHARLES ALFRED WEATHERBY has been promoted to be assistant curator of the Gray Herbarium of Harvard University. Miss Marjorie W. Stone has been appointed bibliographer, succeeding Miss Winifred E. Burrell.

MR. ERNEST J. TEBERG, of Chicago, has been appointed curator of the railroad transportation division of the Museum of Science and Industry of Chicago.

DR. DON M. GRISWOLD, formerly professor of hygiene and public health, University of Iowa, has been provisionally appointed consulting epidemiologist on the Division of Communicable Diseases of the New York State Department of Health.

DR. J. S. YOUNG, lecturer in experimental pathology and assistant director of cancer research in the University of Leeds, has been appointed Musgrave professor of pathology at the University of Belfast.