cured in Devonian-age deposits in eastern New York by G. Arthur Cooper, of the Smithsonian division of invertebrate paleontology. Most of these were recovered from the numerous ravines and quarries around Cazenovia, Morrisville, and Hamilton, N. Y. The majority of the entombed animals are invertebrates, including nearly 150 species of ancient clams.

Dr. Alexander Wetmore, assistant secretary of the institution, hunted rare birds in dense rain forest and on high mountains in Haiti. Following an airplane reconnaissance of the little known La Hotte Mountains, which required little more than three hours, Dr. Wetmore and his party set out to reach this region with a pack train. At the end of six days of almost constant rain, over trails whose steepness and badness beggars description, they reached a point where the pack animals could go no further and they were obliged to proceed with a train of porters. The party pitched camp at an elevation of 4,200 feet and, drenched with incessant rain, climbed to the highest peak of the La Hotte range. They found a very abundant bird life and made a large collection for the United States National Museum. The party then proceeded to the Dominican Republic. Among the birds collected on the island of Beata off the Dominican coast was a hitherto unknown variety of wood warbler.

Dr. William M. Mann, director of the National Zoological Park, collected wild animals in British Guiana. Dr. Mann was seeking especially for reptiles. Among his captives was a small, brilliant red and black burrowing snake related to the boas which probably was the first of its kind to come alive into any collection. Another curious captive was a "jumping johnnie," a small snake with the under side of its tail colored a brilliant red. When picked up it goes through the motions of stinging with this tail, hitting the hand that holds it again and again with the brilliant red tip. It is harmless. Dr. Mann collected in all 350 live specimens, some representing varieties seldom seen in captivity. There were 128 birds, 21 mammals and 189 reptiles.

Dr. Paul Bartsch, curator of mollusks, continued his biological explorations in the Tortugas. He reports one interesting observation on the ability of birds to adjust themselves to a change in environment. On one "key" he found that all the trees, bushes and shrubs had been swept away by hurricanes. Great numbers of noddy terns used to build their nests in the vegetation. He found that now all have changed to a ground dwelling habit. Still retaining the desire to make nests they gather bits of dead twigs and shape them into semblances of nests on the ground. The birds, Dr. Bartsch said, seem to have a decided "lingo-tactic sense," for old boards seem to satisfy their desire for wooden homes. Birds were found incubating their eggs upon bare boards.

GEOLOGY, PHYSIOGRAPHY AND ECOLOGY AT THE PULLMAN MEETING OF THE PACIFIC DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

FOR those interested in the geology, physiography or special problems of ecology of the "Inland Empire" of the Pacific Northwest, a rare feast is spread for the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, meeting in Pullman, Washington, from June 15 to 18. On the general program, Dr. J Harlen Bretz, of Chicago University, will speak on his investigations of the scablands of the Columbia Plateau and will conduct a party to the field to study at first hand this unique problem of Pleistocene erosion. The Palouse Hills in which Pullman is situated, in themselves, present an inviting study as to their genesis, and will be a revelation to all comers who have not seen approaching harvest in the wheat fields which cover them. The farm and laboratory of the new U. S. Station for Erosion Control will be suggestive of what the immediate future may have in store in moisture control for agriculture. Several short local excursions are planned and two more extended ones, in addition to that with Dr. Bretz, will attract to more distant points of interest. One of these will be a boat excursion up the canyon of the Snake River from Lewiston, Idaho, to a point where the depth of the gorge, approximately 6,000 feet, rivals that of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado. Those who have made this boat trip describe it as unforgettable. Perhaps most delightful of all, because less hurried and inviting leisurely travel and prolonged stay, will be the excursion to the almost wholly unknown Wallowa Mountains of northeastern Oregon, and the new Eagle Cap Primitive Area in these highlands. A hasty survey[1] of this region in the summer of 1931, together with Professor Warren D. Smith's very readable account,[2] have given the writer the impression of a dome-like uplift of late Miocene time which carried Columbia basalts almost to its crest at an original elevation of between ten and twelve thousand feet. At the northeastern side this dome gave way in a great down fault of about thirty miles' length with a scarp of about 4,000 feet above the plain (Wallowa Valley). A Pleistocene ice-cap formed about Eagle Cap Mountain and no less than five glaciers carved deep gorges down to the

[1] Observations here recorded were made possible by a grant for research in this region by the Research Committee of the National Society of Sigma Xi.

[2] Warren D. Smith, "Wallowa Mountains and County," Commonwealth Review of University of Oregon, January, 1928.

level of the plain on northern and eastern sides of the dome. These are the canyons of Lostine River, Hurricane Creek, Wallowa River, Big Sheep Creek (perhaps) and Imnaha River. The alpine sculpture is magnificent. To the physiographer, the unusually perfect state of preservation of the moraine which encloses Wallowa Lake is most impressive. The lateral moraines reach a height of 700 feet above the water level of the lake and the steepness of the inner slope is quite unbelievable. Professor Smith finds the outer slope records five advances of the ice. Only at the outlet of the lake is any part of the moraine disturbed since the recession of the ice.

To the ecologist this oasis in the midst of semi-desert (Upper Sonoran), with lush temperate vegetation in lower valleys, extending upward to alpine, is a paradise for exploration.

As mountaineering goes, one reaches all these charming possibilities with absurd ease from the friendly little agricultural villages of Enterprise, Joseph, Lostine and Wallowa. The car is parked at the end of a good forest road two thirds of the distance between the entrance of the mountain valley and the base of Eagle Cap. Nine miles of good foot or horse trail reaches the lake basin at about 8,000 feet elevation and surrounding peaks reach about 9,800.

THOMAS LARGE

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

THE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING OF YALE UNIVERSITY

THE Yale Corporation has authorized the existing division of engineering to assume the status of a school with the title of the Yale School of Engineering. The school will include the functions and activities in civil engineering (including drawing), chemical, electrical and mechanical engineering, metallurgy and engineering mechanics.

This organization is the result of a proposal made by a committee which for over a year has been studying the teaching of science and engineering at the university. It has long been desired by the departments of engineering, and the recommendation has the approval of the Board of Permanent Officers of the Sheffield Scientific School.

Dean Charles H. Warren, of the Sheffield Scientific School, in explaining the organization of the Engineering School, said in part:

> Previous to 1919 all instruction at Yale in engineering was given in the Sheffield Scientific School. After the reorganization of the university in that year undergraduate instruction in engineering remained in the Scientific School, but the graduate work was transferred to the Graduate School.
>
> Believing that engineering work of all grades, together with research and other activities in the engineering departments, constitutes a distinctive unit within the university requiring a unified control for its administration and the satisfactory coordination of its parts, the Division of Engineering, which includes the several engineering departments, has for some years performed what are virtually the functions of a faculty of engineering. Their recommendations have, however, been subject to the approval of the boards of the Scientific School and the Graduate School, respectively, and the activities of the engineering departments have in general been under the dual control.
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> While this arrangement has worked reasonably well, it is from the administrative point of view needlessly cumbersome, and furthermore it has been felt by the engineers that the interests of engineering would be advanced more rapidly if the engineering departments were given the status of a school of engineering under its own dean and board of permanent officers, a form of organization which has long since been followed by every other university in the country.
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> Under this new arrangement all students of engineering will from now on be under the jurisdiction of an engineering faculty, and the engineering degrees will be conferred upon its recommendation. This change will not, however, modify in any essential particular the general conduct of the instructional work, nor the other activities of the engineering departments. Undergraduate students will be admitted, as in the past, to the freshman year and from it will enter the undergraduate department of the engineering school. Their relations with other undergraduates, and in regard to all social and extra-curricular activities, will remain exactly as at present.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

A DINNER in honor of Dr. Ernest W. Brown, Gibbs professor of mathematics at Yale University, who becomes professor emeritus at the end of the academic year, was held at the New Haven Lawn Club on May 24. The dinner was given by members of the three university departments with which Professor Brown has been associated: astronomy, mathematics and physics. Dean Clarence W. Mendell was toastmaster. Addresses were given by Dr. Frank Schlesinger, director of the University Observatory; Professor Oystein Ore, director of graduate studies in mathematics; Governor Wilbur Cross, dean emeritus of the Graduate School, and President James Rowland Angell.

THE degree of honorary doctor of veterinary medicine was conferred upon Dr. Theobald Smith, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, by the