subjects of plant pathology, the growing of wheat, diseases of stock, wild animals, and again and again nematodes, date from this period. Not less significant were his contributions to the problem of sugar-cane growing. In the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Dr. Cobb was closely connected with the first and perhaps most fundamental work on the standardization of cotton fibers. Who does not know his picture of the house fly, perhaps one of the most widely reproduced of scientific pictures drawn with so much ingenuity. Whoever heard and saw the results of his bird studies, especially on the bluejays, will admire the skill, the keenness, the patience and the enthusiasm that were his.

He had an inborn tendency to rationalize the methods of investigations, inventing and constructing various devices and apparatus to this end. Naturally this rationalization did not stop at his laboratory door. He saw with concern the endless irrationalities in our daily life. Why not simplify where it is possible? For years he advocated the adoption of the metric system. While in Australia he tried to impress upon people the obsoleteness of the English monetary system. His last public address as retiring president of the Washington Academy of Sciences, was a call to scientists to assume more leadership in such matters. Science complicated life, the scientist therefore should lead in simplifying it. Why burden our children with the learning of obsolete systems when much simpler ones are at hand? Why should human society, even in matters of science, use a variety of languages when one, perhaps a modernized English, could be used?

Dr. Cobb was of a charming personality. All who came in personal contact with him admired his ever open interest in most varied matters, his ability to discuss the widest range of subjects, and to portray clearly his views, often spiced with "Attic salt." In fact his sense of humor was very keen and occasionally found its expression in verses and rhymes. He captured his associates by an ever young enthusiasm for his work and an unlimited optimism.

His favored society was the Helminthological Society of Washington, of which he was a charter member. The informal character of this society, which offered so much opportunity for free discussion, was to his liking. He rarely missed a meeting and rarely failed to make one or more communications. Dr. Cobb was past president of the Washington Academy of Sciences and a former president of the Helminthological Society of Washington, the American Society of Parasitologists and the American Microscopical Society.

G. STEINER

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE NORTH INDIA EXPEDITION OF YALE UNIVERSITY

THE Yale North India Expedition has found fossil plants and mollusc shells in the Himalayas which will throw new light on the subrecent climatic changes in this region, according to the first report of the expedition made to President James Rowland Angell by the director, Professor Hellmut de Terra. This group of scientists has already spent three months in exploring the western Himalayas and adjoining regions, and will continue its studies for another nine months.

Surveys in this region indicate the geologically recent origin of the southern Himalayan range. The expedition has spent some time in the northern Punjab, south of the Himalayas, making collections of invertebrate and vertebrate fossils with the assistance of a member of the Geological Survey of India. Mr. G. E. Lewis, of Yale, the paleontologist of the party, has found interesting representatives of the celebrated fossil mammal fauna of this region.

The very extensive series of lakes and swamps in the Kashmir Valley has been investigated by Professor G. E. Hutchinson. The collections and ecological data amassed will undoubtedly add to our knowledge of the relations of this fauna to that of western Central Asia from which region Kashmir has received most of its animal inhabitants. The contrast of this fauna with that of the rest of India is most striking.

The Himalayan area is of special interest since it is the scene of geologically recent mountain building. Strata which are so young as to be contemporary with formations laid down during the Ice Age in Europe and America have in this region been folded and pushed out of their original positions by the great pressure of mountain-making. A study of the animal and plant life in the inland waters here give some idea of the river systems and ancient geography of this land.

Through the generosity of an anonymous donor the American Geographical Society has enabled the expedition to enlist the services of a topographer who joined the expedition through the courtesy of the surveyor general of India. The surveyor, Khan Sahib Afraz Gul Khan, plans to map a hitherto unsurveyed part of the great Karakorum Range north of the Himalayas. The expedition has left Srinagar, capital of Kashmir, and will spend five months in Little Tibet.