students of genetics, presenting a wide range of new possibilities.

Of great importance for the genetic interpretation of polyploidy in terms of chromosomes is the identification of chromosomes that carry specific genes. Only a few years ago this was known in only one animal, but the number of cases is steadily increasing. Until information of this kind becomes more general there will be, as at present, a good deal of guessing as to the relation of chromosome groups having different numbers of chromosomes.

(To be concluded)

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

MUNICIPAL RECREATION AREAS

THE National Recreation Association has issued a statement in regard to recreation areas that have been donated to cities in the United States.

According to this statement park and recreation areas, valued at more than $100,000,000 and comprising 75,000 acres, have been donated to municipalities in the United States, according to a study made by the National Recreation Association.

These parks comprise one third of all municipal recreation areas, the remainder having been secured by the expenditure of municipal funds. Some cities, including New Brunswick, New Jersey; Oneonta, New York, and Raleigh, North Carolina, reported that every acre of their existing parks was secured through gifts.

Typical of the varied types of areas given are the Edwin Gould Playground of 6.5 acres in Dobbs Ferry, New York; Percy Warner Park of 700 acres in Nashville, Tennessee, and the Littauer Park and swimming pool of 4.1 acres in Gloversville, New York. H. C. Frick, of Pittsburgh, willed 151 acres, now known as Frick Park, to the city and in addition left a fund of $2,000,000, the income from which was to be used for maintaining, improving and adding to the park.

Northampton, Massachusetts, the home of former President Coolidge, was given an area of 103 acres, known as Look Memorial Park. A fund of $450,000 was also given by Mrs. Fannie B. Look for developing and maintaining the park. Fred Morgan Kirby in 1921 gave Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, $250,000 to develop Kirby Park, adding $120,000 in 1924 and creating an endowment of half a million dollars.

A variety of motives inspired the park gifts. One applicable to many gifts is the desire to perpetuate the memory of a citizen who has given special service to his community or to the nation. In Summit, New Jersey, for example, the citizens, desiring to provide a lasting memorial to Hamilton Wright Mabie, made a fund to purchase and improve a tract of land opposite the Civic Center. The area, known as the Mabie Memorial Playground, possesses natural beauty and has been equipped with many recreation facilities, including tennis courts, a shelter house and playground apparatus. The Cauldwell Playground in Morristown, New Jersey, is a memorial to a former mayor, as is the David N. Ropes Playground in Orange of the same state.

Lieutenant Clayton C. Ingersoll Memorial Park of 110 acres in Rockford, Illinois, was given by the parents of the young man for whom the park was named. He was killed in the war.

Mr. and Mrs. William Allen White, of Emporia, have developed an area of fifty-one acres as a city park, naming it "Mary's Garden" in memory of their daughter. Among the restrictions accompanying the gift are that the name White will never be used in connection with the park and that the donors shall have five years in which to spend as much of their own money as they wish in improving the park.

Robert Greer Playground in Elizabeth, New Jersey, was given by the father of a boy killed by an automobile. The donor of Pope Park in Hartford, Connecticut, offered this area to the city, stating, "A large part of the success of any manufacturing business depends upon the health, happiness and orderly life of its employees." He made it a condition that the city buy another tract of land so situated as to benefit the employees of all the factories in that section of the city.

THE COST OF SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS

THE *Wistar Institute News* says: "On August 15, 1932, a circular letter was addressed to the editors of all journals published by The Wistar Institute. The responses from editors have been so gratifying in their support of the institute's policy that it seems advisable, in order to aid the editors in their arduous and thankless task, to publish the letter in *The Wistar Institute News.*"

The letter, signed by Dr. M. J. Greenman, director of the institute, reads:

> During 1931, The Wistar Institute published more pages in its several journals than during any previous year (8,091 pages). During the first six months of 1932 there has been a very considerable increase in the number of pages over the first six months of 1931. At the same time the individual support of journals is decreasing.
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> It would appear that some men who write papers are not interested in supporting journals. Perhaps there is a very good reason for this.

It is our impression that the cost of publication is a legitimate part of the cost of an investigation. A number of our leading laboratories are conducted on this policy.

In securing support for publications many factors must be considered. Some laboratories are unable to aid publications directly as they might do were it possible under the state laws.

The Wistar Institute is attempting to publish promptly all manuscripts accepted by the editors and secure for support of the several journals all possible income from their sale and lessen the cost of production by maintaining its own press.

The sudden increase in material to be published during the past few months, with a tendency on the part of authors to take no part in the support of the media through which their work is brought to the attention of their colleagues, causes us some anxiety.

Until we secure additional endowment for publication purposes it is necessary to secure aid from every possible source.

It is essential for us to request that for a time you accept only such papers as are of more than usual importance and that the illustrations be limited to those absolutely necessary, or permit us to ask authors to contribute toward the cost of illustrations, which in many cases exceeds the cost of text.

THE THERMO-HYGIENE LABORATORY

CONTRACTS have been let by the John B. Pierce Foundation for the erection of an experimental laboratory adjoining the Yale University School of Medicine, in which investigations will be conducted on ventilation, cooling and heating, and their effects upon human health and comfort. The laboratory is to be known as the Thermo-hygiene Laboratory. Research activities will be in charge of Dr. Leonard Greenburg and Dr. L. P. Herrington under the general supervision of Dr. C.-E. A. Winslow.

The building will be a three-story structure about fifty feet square, located on the corner of Congress and Liberty Streets. Construction is to be commenced at once and will be completed in about three months. Included in the equipment are two suspended experimental rooms, fifteen feet long, twelve feet wide and nine feet high, in which it will be possible to produce and maintain any desired temperature, humidity and air motion.

Professor Winslow, known as an authority on public health, has long been engaged in a study of the effect of atmospheric conditions upon health. He has been a member of the New York State Ventilation Commission since 1913, and is now abroad to make a survey of progress in Europe on problems of heating and ventilation. Dr. Greenburg, who is trained as an engineer and physician, has been a member of the U. S. Public Health Service for many years, and in this capacity has been working in the Yale laboratories on ventilation problems. Dr. Herrington is a psychologist, with special training in physiology. Both of these men are members of the Department of Public Health at Yale. Their cooperation with Professor Winslow will make it possible to approach from various specialized angles the problems to be studied in these laboratories.

The John B. Pierce Foundation was established in 1924 for the specific purpose of supporting research work "in connection with the sanitary and hygienic security of human beings and their habitations."

THE W. J. McDONALD OBSERVATORY

THE University of Texas has received by bequest of the late William J. McDonald, of Texas, a sum now slightly in excess of $840,000, to erect and maintain an astronomical observatory. The observatory will be known as "The W. J. McDonald Observatory of the University of Texas," and will cost, including site, buildings and equipment, approximately $375,000. The observatory will house an 80-inch reflecting telescope.

Construction will be undertaken immediately under the terms of a cooperative agreement between the University of Texas, which is to erect and maintain the observatory, and the University of Chicago, which is to provide the director and staff.

Dr. Otto Struve, who is director of the Yerkes Observatory of the University of Chicago, at Williams Bay, Wisconsin, is to become also director of the McDonald Observatory. The University of Chicago is to pay the salaries of Dr. Struve, an assistant director who will have a permanent residence at the McDonald Observatory, at least two observing assistants, and the necessary maintenance staff. As a result of the cooperative undertaking, plans of the University of Chicago to build an observatory and powerful reflecting telescope in one of the Southern states have been abandoned.

Following observations made this summer by an expedition headed by Dr. C. T. Elvey, a member of the Yerkes Observatory staff, assisted by Mr. T. G. Mehlin, the McDonald Observatory probably will be located on a peak in the Davis Mountains of Texas, where visual conditions are unsurpassed and the proportion of clear nights is much higher than at Williams Bay.

The 80-inch reflector is being designed at Yerkes by Dr. Struve, assisted by Drs. Van Biesbroeck, Ross, Moffit, Morgan and Crump. It will be surpassed in size only by the 100-inch reflector of the Mt. Wilson Observatory, and will be as useful as that instrument