achievements is in the art of communication, of which for nearly fifty years he was an outstanding leader; in the citations by which a large number of great institutions justified their grants to him of honorary degrees or medals of distinction and in the archives of the Departments of State of his own and other nations which conferred upon him high orders in recognition of services rendered in the cause of making this world a better place in which to live.

To General Carty, science and the methods of scientific thought were never narrow things or things apart from the great problems of a fuller life. Nor were the great institutions and academies of science mere machinery for putting the capstones of acknowledged success on recognized achievement. To him their raison d'être was their unique opportunity for service.

It was in this light that he looked upon the National Academy of Sciences, an essentially undemocratic institution in a democratic country. It was knowledge of this feeling which caused his associates to create there the medal which bears his name and of which the academy later made to him its first award. It was for him the most pleasurable and satisfying token of love and esteem which those associates could render since it gave assurance of enhanced opportunity to the academy for lasting service. That he did not live to receive the medal is a source of regret to his friends. To him it mattered little.

F. B. JEWETT

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF MOUNT EVEREST

IN view of the forthcoming Everest Expedition, a small selection of the specimens brought back by the expeditions of 1921, 1922 and 1924 has been arranged at the British Museum (Natural History), South Kensington, to illustrate conditions upon the mountain. According to the London *Times*, the general appearance of the upper ranges of Everest is excellently illustrated in a number of enlarged photographs. One of these shows how the high winds, even outside the seasons of the monsoon, give rise to whirling clouds of dry snow. The article in the *Times* continues:

A sectional elevation shows the altitudes up to which various forms of life were found, and objects from every department indicate the peculiarities of the natural history of the mountain. Beetles were found at a height of 16,500 feet, butterflies up to 17,000 feet, moths as far up as 18,000 feet. Each of these specimens had its idiosyncrasies; the butterflies and moths clung with their wings to the mountain side against the high wind; the beetles stiffened out and rolled; and even the ants were remarkably torpid.

The grasshoppers shown from the higher altitudes are all wingless, but are related, save for one endemic group, to winged varieties elsewhere. It is curious to note how much smaller were two specimens, within the same species, which were found at 10,000 feet, than two similar examples from the 7,000-foot level. Spiders were found above the snowline and up to 22,000 feet; they live, apparently, upon diminutive insects which themselves must exist on inconspicuous vegetable life.

Sheep were found up to 20,000 feet on the borders of the lichen-zone, but the highest recorded altitude to be reached by a mammal (20,100 feet) was attained by the Royle's pika or Wollaston's pika (mouse-hare), of which a number are on view.

In general, the fauna below 16,000 feet is of essentially the same type as that of the adjacent areas of Central and Southern Asia, while above 16,000 feet its affinities are predominantly Palearctic. The animals are, however, frequently of smaller size than their lowland relatives. The highest nesting birds were found at 17,000 feet; finches were seen migrating at 21,000 feet, and choughs followed the climbers as high as they went.

The plants found on Everest include willows, primulas, gentians, blue poppies and others known to Western gardeners. The short duration of the growing season (three to four months), the exposure to wind and cold, the brightness of the light, the pressure of snow, the distance of water from surface, the scarcity of insects and the poorness of soil, however, all help to make plant life difficult. The plants on screes and cliffs have a very long, spongy taproot, enabling them to reach down to the moisture and to resist the movement of the loose stony material.

The Himalayan range is comparatively Recent, and reached its present form only in Pliocene times. Fossil ammonites from the 14,000-foot level of the Tibetan plateau show the creatures which formerly lived in the sea, which covered the site of the great range. Examples of Recent rocks were collected up to 27,000 feet.

The exhibition, which has been arranged in the Insect Gallery by Dr. Anna B. Hastings and M. M. Burton, will remain open between six months and a year.

FORESTRY PROGRAM FOR THE SOUTH-EASTERN STATES

A FORESTRY program designed to meet the needs of the eight southeastern states has been adopted by the Southeastern Council according to an announcement made by Colonel J. W. Harrelson, director of the North Carolina State Department of Conservation and Development. This program is given below.

1. Encouragement of teaching forestry in public schools and colleges and the development of an appreciation on the part of the general public of the benefits of forest conservation.