an African hall of habitat groups, provided that a house for the collection were provided, it was hoped that some one might come forward with an endowment for much needed new buildings. But this did not happen. Mr. Simson then offered to the academy property worth $150,000, but with the condition that income therefrom should be his during life. His proposition was accepted and the academy borrowed $255,000 and erected a new unit to its museum buildings in Golden Gate Park in which it has provided space for the departments of entomology and ichthyology, for the administrative offices, and for the Simson African Hall.

In this hall, under the direction and general planning of Mr. Frank Tose, the chief of exhibits, the habitat groups are being installed. There will be ten large groups, thirteen intermediate small size groups and one very large waterhole group at the end of the hall. Of these groups, only one is now under glass. The backgrounds of three small groups have been painted and the backgrounds of five other large groups are nearing completion. The lighting of the habitat groups will all be artificial. Their backgrounds are domed so that all structural work is concealed. The observer gets no impression of a painted wall. Glass fronts will be inclined so that reflections of opposite light areas will be thrown well up above the horizon where they will interfere least with a view of the mounted specimens. In the lion group, the preparator of which throughout is Mr. Tose, sunlight effect by a transparency behind a rugged foreground is startling and exceptionally realistic, made to merge perfectly into the surrounding well-lighted surface painting.

It is notable in connection with this installation that there are no lighting fixtures in the hall. Abundant indirect light radiates from the habitat groups, all of which are artificially illuminated.

The hope was expressed that sponsors would be found for the individual habitat groups, as has been the case in the academy's hall of California wild life.

THE NEW COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

JOHN COLLIER has been nominated by President Roosevelt to succeed Charles J. Rhoads as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. In making the announcement Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, made the following statement:

John Collier will bring to the administration of the Bureau of Indian Affairs a wide knowledge of the subject based upon personal contacts and intensive study during the past several years. In my judgment, he is the best equipped man who has ever occupied that office.

Drafted by the government four years ago, Mr. Charles J. Rhoads has served as Commissioner of Indian Affairs with great distinction. His uprightness of character, his ability and his single-hearted desire to serve have impressed all who have known him and realized the difficult task he undertook. It has been my pleasure to know Mr. Rhoads and the fine work he has done. Respecting his repeated request to be permitted to retire to private life, a conscientious effort has been made to find an outstanding and experienced man to take over his burdensome duties. Such a man I believe Mr. Collier to be.

I am deeply concerned about the welfare of the American Indians. I am persuaded that they are entitled to every consideration that the government can give them. The Commissioner of Indian Affairs ought to be the representative of the Indians themselves in the Department of the Interior. He should be their advocate, fighting for their interests and pleading their cause. Those who seek to encroach upon the rights and privileges of these original Americans are amply able to look out for themselves. Unless the government selects the right kind of a man as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, the Indians themselves are, in effect, without a friend at court when substantial rights and interests of theirs are up for adjudication.

I have known John Collier for a number of years, and I have had opportunity to acquaint myself at first hand with the soundness of his views and his attitude toward the Indian question. In addition to safeguarding the property rights of the Indians, he will help them to help themselves toward a fuller and happier life. He will respect their customs, encourage them in their arts and assist them to maintain their rich and unique culture. He will try to interpret them sympathetically to their white fellow Americans. He realizes that on the purely material side, our American Indians possess possibilities in which the white people themselves may share, if those possibilities are realized and cultivated.

IN HONOR OF CHARLES E. MUNROE

AT the subscription dinner at the recent Washington meeting of the American Chemical Society Dr. Charles E. Munroe, past president of the society and its only surviving charter member, was the guest of honor. In testimony of the esteem of the society, Dr. Munroe was presented with a jeweled emblem of the society and a purse. In presenting these tokens, Dr. Arthur B. Lamb, professor of chemistry and director of the laboratory at Harvard University, president of the society, said, in part:

The American Chemical Society was definitely organized on April 20, 1876, in New York City. Of the one hundred and thirty-three charter members at that time the sole survivor to-day is Charles Edward Munroe.

The first general meeting of the society was held in Newport, Rhode Island, on August 6 and 7, 1890, at the suggestion and under the chairmanship of Dr. Munroe, who was at that time a member of the technical staff of the United States Navy Torpedo Station at that city. Dr. Munroe was president of the society in 1898 to 1899 and is honorary chairman of this, the eighty-fifth general

meeting of the American Chemical Society. He is with us here to-night, as keen of wit and as full of energy, optimism, kindness and good will as when he assisted in the establishment of our society fifty-seven years ago!

Dr. Munroe was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1849. He graduated from the Lawrence Scientific School at Harvard in 1871 and stayed on as instructor in quantitative analysis in the chemical department of the university until 1874.

From Harvard, Dr. Munroe went as professor of chemistry to the Naval Academy at Annapolis. After twelve years there he became chemist to the Torpedo Corps, United States Naval Station, and War College, and to other bureaus of the Federal Government; and thereafter, professor of chemistry and dean of the graduate faculty of George Washington University. He is the inventor of smokeless powder, discoverer of the "Munroe Effect," and author of a hundred or more articles and books on chemistry and explosion.

But as Dr. Wiley has said, Dr. Munroe's greatest works are not found in the scientific papers that he has published nor in the dangerous researches that he has made, but in the hearts and lives of the thousands he has taught.

Dr. Munroe, as I have said, was born in 1849. Gold was discovered that year in Cambridge as well as in California—for Dr. Munroe's heart is made exclusively of that noble metal!

It is then with the greatest pleasure and satisfaction that I hand to you, Dr. Charles Edwin Munroe, first, this gold pin carrying the emblem of our society, and secondly, these gold certificates of the United States Treasury, as tokens of our respect, our admiration and our affection.

THE AWARD OF THE WILLARD GIBBS MEDAL TO DR. RICHARD WILLSTAETTER

DR. RICHARD WILLSTAETTER, of Munich, who received the Nobel Prize in 1915, has been awarded the Willard Gibbs Medal of the Chicago Section of the American Chemical Society.

The award is made for Dr. Willstaetter's work in chemistry, especially in the chemistry of chlorophyll. His name is added to the list of twenty-one other Willard Gibbs medalists "whose work in either pure or applied science has received world-wide recognition." The jury which voted the medal consisted of twelve American leaders representing every branch of chemistry.

The medal will be conferred on Dr. Willstaetter in Chicago on September 13 during the eighty-sixth meeting of the American Chemical Society, which will be held in connection with the Century of Progress Exposition. A distinguished group of scientists from Europe and America will witness the ceremony.

A statement from the American Chemical Society says:

Dr. Willstaetter is known for his researches in organic chemistry, particularly in biochemistry. The chronicle of his career in science is the record of a great mind successfully attacking, in logical sequence, some of the most difficult problems in organic and bio chemistry.

The greatness of Dr. Willstaetter as a chemist lies not only in his signal accomplishments, but in his ability to perpetuate his influence by opening the way for the work of others. He has conquered barren wildernesses of ignorance and left them fertile fields where others as well as himself might gain rich reward.

Honored by scientific societies all over the world for his contributions to the field of organic chemistry, Dr. Willstaetter last year was awarded the Davy Medal of the Royal Society in London. His sixtieth birthday last August was widely celebrated in Germany.

One of the best known of all European chemists, Dr. Willstaetter's first great independent research was with the cocaine alkaloids, the result of which "set the field in order" and culminated in the synthesis of cocaine. Next he attacked the quinines and quininoid substances, and discovered ortho-quinine and proof of the structure of aniline black.

Work on the cyclic hydrocarbons, important in the oil industry, was the next step in Dr. Willstaetter's scientific career, the most notable achievement in this field being the synthesis of cyclo-octatetrene, a cyclic substance having alternating single and double bonds, but not aromatic in nature.

An outstanding chapter in Dr. Willstaetter's studies was his investigation on the structure of chlorophyll, the green coloring matter of leaves which is present in all growing vegetable cells, and the assimilation of carbon dioxide by plants. He proved the identity of chlorophyll from many plants, demonstrated the existence of two chlorophylls, and their close association with the carotinoids, a widely distributed plant pigment.

From products derived after breaking down chlorophyll, Dr. Willstaetter disclosed most of the secrets of its structure, thus contributing greatly to science's knowledge of the vegetable kingdom. His researches with the anthocyanins, flower pigments, demonstrated the close relationship of this varied-hued substance to chlorophyll, and the simple means by which nature changes the blue of the cornflower to the red of the rose or the purple of the grape. This study of plant pigments was crowned in 1915 by the award of the Nobel Prize for outstanding chemical research.

Dr. Willstaetter next considered the related field of the enzymes, chemical compounds of vegetable or animal origin that cause chemical transformation. By developing new methods and by insisting upon checking each procedure through quantitative analysis, he revolutionized research in this field.

Valuable contributions on many other subjects, such as hydrogenation with platinum and the hydrates of metals, have been made by Dr. Willstaetter, in addition to his major researches. In most cases these lesser studies grew out of the need for information to assist some