

1933. The new institute is intended to be a national center for field ornithologists as the British Museum is for systematists. £8,000 is needed to run the institute for a preliminary five years while steps are being taken to put it on a more permanent basis. An appeal will be made not only for funds but also for gifts of books, field notes and photographs, etc., for equipping it. It is also proposed to arrange at least one long excursion to study British bird life, and South Wales will probably be chosen as the area to visit, though several shorter excursions are to be made. The lectures and papers are to be given in English, French, German and Italian.

THE FIRST TEN YEARS OF THE NORTHEASTERN FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION

JULY 1, 1933, marked the tenth birthday of the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, which serves all New England and New York. During its first ten years the station has established itself in the region as an agency for leadership and coordination in the advancement of technical forestry practices and has made notable contributions to the knowledge of forest management.

Starting in 1923 with four technical men and a clerk, the station had twelve technical men and five clerks on its staff during its tenth year, including, in addition to the Forest Service men, representatives of the Bureaus of Plant Industry, Entomology and Biological Survey. Originally occupying offices at the Massachusetts Agricultural College, at Amherst, the station moved its headquarters in 1932 to New Haven, Connecticut, where a building was made available by Yale University.

Since its establishment the station has had the advice and help of the Northeastern Forest Research Council, which is composed of representative forest land owners, business men, educators, state forest officials and others interested in the development of the forest resources of the region.

Much of the work of the Northeastern Station has consisted of the establishment, treatment and subsequent remeasurement of permanent sample plots, the number of which has now reached 545, involving altogether about 437 acres. These long-time experiments are being concentrated in so far as practicable on a few representative areas. Two experimental forests, together comprising about 4,000 acres, have been set aside for this purpose in the White Mountain National Forest, New Hampshire, and cooperative agreements have been entered into for the use of two other areas of between 500 and 600 acres each in New York State. Continuous meteorological records are being obtained on the experimental forests in the White Mountains and intensive development of these areas

is being pushed through federal unemployment relief activities.

The station's research program has covered in a broad way the following subjects: growth and yield of spruce and fir, management of spruce and fir for pulpwood production, decay of slash, deterioration of birch on cut-over lands, development of form class volume tables, analysis of forest fire statistics, relation of weather to inflammability of forest fuels; control of spruce budworm, white pine weevil, European larch canker and other forest insects and diseases, relation of light and soil moisture to tree growth, growth and yield of northern hardwoods, forest planting and phenology of forest trees and shrubs. A list of the major publications of the staff of the station during the past ten years would include 85 titles, comprising about 1,300 printed pages.

Although the station's activities have covered a variety of subjects there is need for a still more comprehensive program. It is perhaps most urgent at this time that provision be made for a systematic survey of the forest resources of the region and for studies in the field of the economics of forestry. Basic knowledge is also needed on how various types of growth and methods of forest management influence the quantity and quality of water supplies, and the character and abundance of game and wild life in the forest. It is apparent that, because of the long-time element in forestry and the diversity of the problems demanding attention, it will be difficult to keep the advance of knowledge ahead of the actual need for results.—*C. Edward Behre, director.*

THE COST OF GERMAN MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC PERIODICALS

THE Medical Library Association, including 156 American and 6 Canadian libraries, in convention assembled in Chicago, June 19, 1933, passed the following resolutions:

1. It is recommended that no library subscribe to any periodicals that do not have a fixed annual subscription price for the entire annual output of volumes or parts. That such price be stated in advance, and also a statement of the number and parts to be issued per year.

2. That the Committee on the Cost of Current Medical Periodicals be empowered to invite the various library groups of this and other countries to cooperate with us in the above-mentioned and other measures, necessary to establish more equitable prices for medical and other scientific journals, and that the approach to library organizations in other countries be made first through the president of the International Federation of Library Associations.

3. We believe there is wide-spread opinion that there must be a substantial reduction in extent of, and in subscription prices for, the most expensive medical and other scientific periodicals, and we further recommend that, un-

less definite word to this effect is received sufficiently prior to renewal of subscriptions for 1934, libraries cancel their subscriptions to the most expensive journals, except one library in each of 6 to 10 zones throughout the United States and Canada.

Miss Marjorie J. Darrach, secretary of the association, writes:

These resolutions were passed on the recommendations of the Committee on the Cost of Current Medical Periodicals, which has been studying this question intensively during the past year.

It is felt that these recommendations are advisable, as their fulfillment is essential to the efficient and economic administration of libraries; and it should be pointed out that they are not in any sense of national significance, nor do they in any way constitute an unfriendly gesture to any group of scientists. They are strictly of an economic nature, and are designed to meet certain unfortunate existing conditions which constitute a hindrance to the free interchange of scientific thought.

It is understood that conferences in regard to this situation are to take place in Europe this summer, and there have been unofficial promises made that the conditions complained of will be remedied in the near future. In order, therefore, to give editors and publishers a reasonable amount of time to cooperate, the recommendations cited above do not become effective until it has been demonstrated whether the results of these conferences and negotiations have failed. Therefore, decisions regarding subscriptions for 1934 are being postponed until November 1, 1933, pending the outcome of negotiations.

THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

It is reported by Science Service that the proposed twenty-five per cent. reduction in funds for the extension service and experiment stations of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and the funds for land grant colleges and vocational education has been again deferred by executive order of President Roosevelt. This time the effective date is deferred until sixty days after the opening of the next session of the Congress, which will be about March 1, 1934. This order probably saves \$3,917,000 for education and research, particularly in agriculture.

Officials of the Department of Agriculture are not yet certain of the proper interpretation of the order. The effective date now occurs after all payments for the extension service have been made for the present fiscal year, and all but one of the payments for the experiment stations. If the cut is to apply to the whole of the fiscal year it will mean that a refund must be made.

The personnel of the Department of Agriculture has been greatly reduced, as shown by a tabulation of dismissals, furloughs and positions abolished, compiled by Dr. W. W. Stockberger, of the department.

More than a thousand persons have been separated from the different bureaus since the first of March. With the additional separations that it is estimated were made during the month of July the total number will reach 1,530. Of these, 233 were engaged in scientific research, including 42 in the professional grades.

During the past year in cases where resignations or vacancies have occurred positions have been left unfilled. Such positions to the number of 407 were abolished at the beginning of the fiscal year.

The work of the department will also be curtailed through furloughs. It is estimated that during the present fiscal year 2,141 persons will be furloughed for periods ranging from one week to a year. The total number dismissed, furloughed or whose positions have been abolished amounts to over 4,000. A considerable number, however, has been given employment in connection with the new recovery agencies under the control of the department.

THE CHICAGO MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

SCIENTIFIC men of America and Europe will unite in an international tribute to Dr. Richard Willstätter, of Munich, at the eighty-sixth meeting of the American Chemical Society. The meeting, under the presidency of Professor Arthur B. Lamb, of Harvard University, will be held in Chicago in connection with the Century of Progress Exposition from September 10 to 15.

More than 3,000 men and women of science, said to be the largest number ever to attend a convention of the society, are expected to participate. Addresses will be delivered by Dr. Willstätter; Professor George Barger, of the University of Edinburgh; Professor J. N. Brønsted, of the University of Copenhagen, and Dr. Paul Karrer, of Zurich. Practically every professional division of the society will be represented. The fields to be covered include industry, agriculture and food, medicine, gas and fuel, public health, education, petroleum, dyes, rubber, sugar, water, sewage and sanitation.

The central event will be the presentation on Wednesday evening, September 13, of the Willard Gibbs Medal to Dr. Willstätter, who was Nobel Prize Laureate in chemistry in 1925. This is one of the highest honors in American chemical science, and is awarded annually by the Chicago section. At the medal ceremony Dr. Willstätter, dealing with popular aspects of chemistry, will speak on "One Chemist's Retrospects and Prospects." He will deliver the formal medal address on Thursday afternoon, September 14, at a symposium before the sections of organic chemistry, biochemistry and medicinal chemistry, on "Recent Advances in the Nature of En-