

THE Eugenics Research Association, Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, N. Y., offers a first prize of \$3,000 and a second prize of \$1,000 for original researches on the "probability of commitment for a mental disorder of any kind, based on the individual's family history." It is to be clearly understood that the probability of commitment to an institution is the criterion upon which the research must hinge. But contestants are at liberty to pursue without prejudice their own technique in making their investigations. Typewritten and adequate reports of such studies are to be presented to the Eugenics Research Association on or before July 1, 1935. The text of the prize-winning researches will be published in book form by the association.

SECRETARY SINGSON ENCARNACION, of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, Government of

the Philippine Islands, has appointed Dr. Leopoldo A. Faustino, Ph.D. (Stanford), chief geologist of the Bureau of Science, as chief of the National Museum Division of the bureau. The exhibits of the National Museum Division are housed in two buildings. The Museum of Natural History in the Bureau of Science Building, Ermita, contains exhibits of Philippine archeology and ethnography, birds, fishes, shells, corals, mammals and reptiles, insects, rocks and minerals, mineral products, plants, organic products, preserved fruits, fishing appliances, mine models, etc. The Industrial Museum, Port Area, has exhibits of lumber, bamboo, rattan, resins, gums and other forest products, products and by-products of sugar cane, coconut, rice, tobacco and abaca; the embroidery, hat, leather, distillery, textile and pharmaceutical industries, etc.

## DISCUSSION

### THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BOTANICAL GARDEN EXPEDITION TO WESTERN CHINA AND TIBET

IN the April 28 issue of *SCIENCE*, some account was given of a recent expedition to western China and Tibet. My attention has been called to certain misapprehensions created by this article as to the character of the expedition and the auspices under which it was carried on.

Some years ago, a large sum of money was contributed by friends of the University of California Botanical Garden to purchase a representative collection of *Rhododendron* species and to establish a fund for its maintenance. To enrich this collection, the University of California requested Dr. Jos. F. Rock, the well-known plant explorer in Asia, to conduct an expedition into southeastern Tibet, Yunnan and Szechuan provinces, China, where in the past many new or little known species of *Rhododendron* were obtained by him and by Wilson, Forrest, Farrer and Kingdon Ward. Because of his interest in the university's *Rhododendron* collection, Dr. Rock generously agreed to donate his own services and the use of his equipment if the University of California could provide funds for the hire and maintenance of native collectors and pack trains and the transportation of the products of the expedition to Berkeley. Initial pledges of support from friends of the university justified the authorization to Dr. Rock to proceed according to plans mutually agreed upon. The expedition was officially designated "The University of California Botanical Garden Expedition in Western China and Tibet," and a considerable sum was secured from organizations and individuals anxious to contribute to

the development of a representative botanical garden at the University of California.

Because of economic conditions, it was not possible to complete the expedition fund through local contributions, and as a result, botanical and other institutions, as well as individuals in this country and in England, were appealed to, primarily on the ground that the expedition should yield material of scientific importance to all botanists. At the present time over thirty names are included on the list of sponsors of the expedition.

Although the expedition emphasized the securing of new or little known species of *Rhododendron* and of other woody ornamentals, Dr. Rock was asked to collect at least herbarium specimens of all plants found. The wealth of material received will make possible important contributions to the knowledge of the botany of the regions in which his four collecting parties worked during the flowering and fruiting seasons of 1932. The preliminary estimate made by Dr. Rock of the number and character of the seed and herbarium specimens collected was included in a popular description of the expedition published in the *California Alumni Monthly* (May, 1933). Since the unpacking of the collections in Berkeley did not begin until April first, and since over 25,000 herbarium specimens and seed of more than 1,350 numbers (over 75 genera) were obtained, it will be some months before accurate information as to the character of the products of the expedition will be available. Based upon determinations which are being made by specialists in this country and abroad, a check list is being prepared for publication.

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