

and a group of graduate students. Heretofore, the division has lacked a forest of its own, such as those possessed by other forestry schools.

The tract now acquired is near Placerville on the Georgetown Divide, not far from Coloma, where John Marshall discovered gold in California. Two county roads run through the property and it is well situated, both as regards accessibility and ground conditions for future logging operations. Most of the tract is well covered with excellent second-growth which the company has been protecting for many years. The first-class soil and climate give growing conditions of the best.

Three fire lookout stations of the United States Forest Service are close to the tract; one of them overlooks the entire area. The fire hazard is at a minimum, according to Professor Walter Mulford, head of the division, and the State Division of Forestry has agreed to provide fire protection for the tract without expense to the university. As the land is within the boundaries of the El Dorado National Forest, the actual work of protection will be done by the El Dorado National Forest, and the State Division of Forestry will pay the Federal Forest Service for this protection.

With one exception, this is the largest school forest to be owned by any educational institution in the United States; Yale alone has a larger one, in Connecticut. The Harvard forest is of 2,100 acres, that of Cornell 1,800 acres, New York State College of Forestry 2,200 acres, University of Washington 2,000 acres.

#### CONFERENCE ON QUANTITATIVE BIOLOGY AT COLD SPRING HARBOR

As reported in *SCIENCE*, June 2, plans were made to hold symposia at the Cold Spring Harbor Biological Laboratory this summer. These summer conferences, as inaugurated there, are an experiment in scientific procedure. Participants have found the symposia of this, the first summer, to have been of such value as to indicate that this procedure can contribute to advance in biology. The essential characteristics are as follows: A small group of investigators, actively working upon a given aspect of modern research, representing mathematics, physics and chemistry as well as biology, are brought together at the laboratory for work and conference of at least a month's duration; symposia are given from time to time, in which those in residence, and others invited for the purpose, take part. Much importance is placed upon the extent and type of discussion following the formal presentation of papers, and everything is arranged with a view to fostering valuable discussion: speakers are requested to emphasize theoretical and controversial aspects, ample

time is given for discussion, the number of persons attending the symposia is kept small, and only those actively interested in the subject are invited. Problems are discussed from the point of view of men working in the basic sciences as well as from that of those working in biology. The comparatively long duration of the conference-symposia is of great value for many reasons, of which one example follows. Opportunity for revision is afforded between the presentation of the formal papers and their collection for publication. The discussions are taken down stenographically, and are subsequently rewritten by the author of the paper, in consultation with the active participants in the discussion. The revised discussion is resubmitted to the resident group for final consideration. The paper and discussion, as finally published, consequently represent the best considered thought of the group on the subject.

Having seen the method in operation this summer, it is believed that it admirably helps to meet an important need in biology. Modern quantitative biology is so young, and biology in general has become so specialized, that it is very desirable that productive men should have adequate opportunity to expose their work and ideas to the appreciative criticism of the relatively few men in the country who really know what a given investigator is doing and why he is doing it. Furthermore, the basic sciences are not of as great value to biology as they should be, partly because few investigators in mathematics, physics and chemistry sufficiently acquainted with biological problems are actively interested in conducting experiments, or in formulating theories in terms which would be of immediate significance primarily to biologists. It is hoped that eventually, by means of the method, a closer relationship between biology and the basic sciences, and a body of physicists and chemists actively interested in biological problems, will be built up.

The immediate value of conference-symposia, as conducted at Cold Spring Harbor, is obviously greatest to those taking part. At the same time, since large attendance would interfere with the unique advantages of these symposia, arrangements have been made to make the papers and discussions available, with the least possible delay, to biologists at large. As a first step in accomplishing this, *The Collecting Net*, published at Woods Hole, is printing papers and edited discussions as they become available. Over half the papers and discussions have already appeared. In addition to this partial publication in *The Collecting Net*, all the lectures and discussions are to be gathered into Volume I of the Cold Spring Harbor Symposia in Quantitative Biology. Volume I is concerned chiefly with electrokinetic, bioelectric,

coagulation, osmotic and electrochemical phenomena. It is expected that this book will be available for distribution by the end of October. The men taking part in the symposia this summer were the following: Hans Müller, D. R. Briggs, Kenneth S. Cole, Harold Abramson, Stuart Mudd, Hugo Fricke, W. J. V. Osterhout, Herbert S. Gasser, Eric Ponder, D. D. Van Slyke, D. A. MacInnes, Barnett Cohen, Robert Chambers and L. Michaelis.—*A Correspondent.*

### THE INCOMING AND RETIRING CHIEFS OF THE BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY

LEE A. STRONG has been appointed by President Roosevelt to be chief of the Bureau of Entomology, U. S. Department of Agriculture, succeeding Dr. C. L. Marlatt, who retired on September 30.

Mr. Strong's career in the Department of Agriculture has been in the Plant Quarantine and Control Administration, an office distinct from the Bureau of Entomology, but working with it in preventing the spread of plant pests and diseases in this country and endeavoring to bar the introduction of new ones from abroad. He has been chief of this administration since 1929.

Dr. Charles L. Marlatt, who reached his seventieth birthday on September 26, retired on September 30. Before coming to the department, in 1889, he was assistant professor of entomology and horticulture at the Kansas State Agricultural College.

Dr. Marlatt became associated with the administrative work of the bureau and served as assistant chief from 1894 to 1927. During that period he made important contributions to the information on the life-history, habits and methods of controlling important plant pests, particularly the forms that attack fruit trees and cereal and forage crops, and stored-product and household insect pests. He also conducted technical studies on the classification of insects.

Dr. Marlatt is probably best known for his work which led to the passage of the Plant Quarantine Act of 1912, designed to stop the stream of plant pests that had been coming into the United States without restriction from colonial times and had become one of the worst of our crop hazards. When he became chief of the bureau in 1927, he reorganized, under the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture, the plant quarantine work, bringing the sections which had been distributed in the Bureau of Entomology and the Bureau of Plant Industry under a new organization, now designated the Bureau of Plant Quarantine. For a brief period he served as chief of this bureau, as well as chief of the Bureau of Entomology. He relinquished the former position in December, 1929.

### MARCHESE MARCONI AT CHICAGO

MARCHESE GUGLIELMO MARCONI, inventor of radio, arrived in New York City on the Italian liner *Conti*

*di Savoia*, September 28, en route to the Century of Progress Exposition in Chicago, where "Marconi Day" was observed on October 2, in recognition of his contributions to modern scientific progress.

As the first event of "Marconi Day," Marchese Marconi was escorted to the Stadium to attend the official opening of the American Legion Convention, where he spoke briefly on behalf of the Italian Government.

A luncheon at the Museum of Science and Industry, with prominent scientists as speakers, was followed by an inspection of the museum's scientific collection. The Marconi party was received by officials of the fair with a guard of honor and escorted to the Hall of Science. In the court of the Hall of Science a ceremony was held in tribute to Marchese Marconi. Greetings were extended by Rufus Dawes, president of the Century of Progress Exposition, and Governor Horner of Illinois. Dr. Arthur H. Compton, of the University of Chicago, made an address in recognition of Marchese Marconi's achievements in science, and Judge John W. Van Allen, representing the Radio Manufacturers' Association, presented a testimonial.

The lights at the fair were turned on by a radio impulse started in Italy when the planet Saturn came into the field of a telescope in the Florence Observatory. A dramatic contrast in the scientific possibilities since Galileo first studied this planet in his newly perfected telescope was seen in the flashing of the radio beam from Italy to the center of America. Dr. Philip Fox, director of the Adler Planetarium in Chicago, spoke briefly in introduction of the demonstration and Marchese Marconi manipulated the switches that started it. The reception in the court of the Hall of Science was broadcast by the National Broadcasting Company in the United States and Italy.

After the ceremony Dr. Walter Dill Scott, president of Northwestern University, conferred an honorary degree on Marchese Marconi. During this ceremony the crowd in the court of the Hall of Science was entertained by the Bernadini Chorus. Marchese Marconi returned to the rostrum in the court at 7 o'clock to receive radio greetings from the nation.

In the evening of "Marconi Day" the Marchese Marconi attended a dinner of the American Legion and the following day was present at the Legion parade.

The Dante Alighieri Society was host at a luncheon on October 3 in the Illinois Host Building, after which the party was taken through the Hall of Science to view the display of Marconi apparatus there. A reception was given in his honor at the Italian Pavilion when this tour was completed and brief speeches were broadcast on short wave to Italy. A dinner in the evening of October 3 in the Administration Building of the Exposition concluded the formal program.