SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

ANTHROPOLOGICAL EXPEDITION TO THE NORTHWEST OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

IN the extreme northwest corner of South Australia is an area of 21,900 square miles officially dedicated as a reserve for the aboriginal inhabitants. To the north of this, in the southwest corner of the Northern Territory, is a similar reserve of slightly larger extent; and contiguous with these, on the Western Australian side, a reserve in that state also of 21,900 square miles. This huge area of over 65,000 square miles is mostly mulga scrub and sandhill country, worthless for white occupation, but after rain yielding some sustenance for the aborigines. These mostly reside along the barren mountain ranges that cross the reserves mainly in an east and west direction. From an area close to the South Australian Reserve, the seventh expedition organized by the Board for Anthropological Research of the University of Adelaide, in conjunction with the South Australian Museum, recently returned. A major portion of the expense was borne by a fund from the Rockefeller Foundation, administered by the Australian National Research Council. The main expedition was preceded by Mr. N. B. Tindale, ethnologist to the South Australian Museum, and Dr. Cecil Hackett, who during two months traversed the length of the Musgrave Ranges and on into the Mann Ranges, studying the habits of life and the means of obtaining food of the natives within the reserve and carrying out as well anthropological and pathological observations and ascertaining the blood groups.

The main party, whose time was limited, journeyed in August, 1933, from the railway line at Oodnadatta to Ernabella, at the eastern end of the Musgrave Ranges, a distance of nearly 300 miles. Here, in conjunction with the two members already mentioned, an intensive survey was made of many aspects of anthropological interest. Nearly 100 natives, mostly in an entirely unsophisticated state, were available. As elsewhere in the interior, no clothing of any kind was worn, in spite of the thermometer registering 27° and 26.5° during the night on two occasions. During the day, if it happens not to be sunny, warmth is obtained from fires and from fire-sticks, often carried in front of the person. During the night small fires, on either side, replenished from time to time, keep each individual warm. In connection with the body warmth, Professor Hicks, assisted by Mr. J. O'Connor, obtained data of considerable interest, and also made observations on the physiology of the natives. Mr. N. B. Tindale continued his genealogical records, obtained an extensive vocabulary and amassed much information as to their habits and customs. Mr. H. M. Hale, director of the South Australian Museum, obtained further face casts, busts, etc., in plaster of Paris. Dr. H. Gray and Dr. C. Hackett were responsible for obtaining standard anthropometric data and notes on the gait, hair tracts, etc. Dr. H. K. Fry continued his study of native reactions and behavior. The writer continued his work on blood-grouping the natives, finding that 40 belonged to Group A and 23 to Group O; as previously, no natives were found belonging to Groups B or AB. Professor T. Harvey Johnston and the writer were also responsible for the collection of information of a botanical and zoological nature connected with native life.

The confidence of the natives was quickly secured, and as on previous expeditions, no trouble was experienced in obtaining blood for grouping by puncturing the ears, even of quite small children, in making physiological observations at dawn in a native camp, or in casting the features in plaster of Paris. The high value of teamwork such as this was again emphasized, each individual native passing from one to another member of the expedition, to be measured, blood-grouped, photographed and examined for pathological lesions, and to have his (or her) finger prints and dermatoglyphs taken.

Members of the expedition would like to emphasize the necessity of preventing as far as possible the detribalization of the peoples in the Reserves. Such detribalization means rapid extinction. European occupation is approaching the Reserves, and it is highly desirable that a buffer area, at least 30 miles wide, should surround the reserves, rendering it more difficult for natives to be enticed into the settled parts. Such an area, under the control of some body having the native interests at heart, seems absolutely necessary if these pleasant folks are to be saved from early extinction.

J. B. CLELAND

AN EXPEDITION TO HAINAN

HAINAN is the largest island of the Chinese Republic. It is situated between the South China Sea and the Gulf of Tongking, from 20° 8′ to 17° 52′ N., and from 108° 32′ to 111° 15′ E., its area being somewhat over 1,200 square kilometers. The flowering plants of Hainan have been extensively collected by Professor Woon-Young Chun and his associates of the Botanical Institute, National Sun-Yatsen University, Canton. On the other hand, the animals of the

island, although previously collected by a few naturalists and collectors, are still incompletely known to the scientific world. Several scientific organizations have now organized a joint expedition to the island to collect zoological specimens, from protozoa to mammals. Cryptogams, orchids and wood samples will be collected also. The Fan Memorial Institute of Biology will be represented by C. Ho, entomologist, and S. K. Tang, taxidermist, who visited the island a few years ago; the Biological Laboratory of the Science Society of China by Dr. C. C. Wang, invertebrate zoologist, and Mr. K. F. Wang, ichthyologist; the Metropolitan Museum of Natural History by Dr. H. W. Wu, ichthyologist; the National Shantung University by Mr. C. L. Tso, botanist, and Mr. Chungsi H. Liu, anthropologist; and Nankai University by Dr. T. S. Hsiung, invertebrate zoologist. Mr. C. L. Tso, who has had previous experience in the island and is familiar with the natives, will lead the expedition. Mr. K. F. Wang will assist Mr. Tso as second in command. The members of the expedition planned to leave Shanghai for the south about January 15. One party will go to the famous Wu-tchi-shan or Five Fingers Mountain. As the mountain attains the height of more than 2,000 meters, special attention will be given to zoological specimens, especially land vertebrates, in order to study the problem of vertical distribution. Another party will make a coastal survey and pay more attention to fauna of the sea. It is hoped that a rich collection of natural history material will be brought back to the north, before the members of the expedition leave the island at the end of the year.

TSEN-HWANG SHAW

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

TERMITES AND TERMITE CONTROL[1]

CALIFORNIA is a remarkable state, and the people who live there are remarkable people. I often wonder how much of the extraordinary things done by the people out there is due to environment and how much to heredity. California enterprise of to-day is probably due to both of these factors. Surely we people in the East often talk of doing certain big things, only to find out that while we have been talking California has gone ahead and done them.

And so it is about this book. We have talked about the necessity of securing the knowledge and help of scientific men of many special lines of work in our fight against injurious insects, and here California has acted and has produced a volume to which no less than thirty-three authors have contributed. In it are displayed the joint efforts and conclusions of an expert body of men, including engineers, foresters, entomologists, general biologists, plant pathologists, chemists, architects, builders, quarantine experts and heads of great enterprises. What a wonderful combination! And how well it has functioned!

This extraordinary volume results from the enlightened labors of the so-called Termite Investigations Committee and was made possible by funds contributed by more than fifty large commercial organizations, including steamship, railroad, oil, telephone and telegraph, electric, lumber and other important interests. Of the thirty-three authors, seven are entomologists, eight engineers, one forester (one of the engineers is a forest engineer), eight general biologists, three chemists (one of the engineers is a chemical engineer), one architect, one plant quarantine officer and four business executives. And they have been wonderfully well selected. Many of them are acknowledged experts.

The book is divided into four parts: Part I, with 32 chapters, deals with termites and their biology; Part II, with 18 chapters, deals with chemical investigations; Part III, 5 chapters, with termite resistivity of wood and building materials; Part IV, 12 chapters, with prevention and repair of termite damage. This arrangement is both logical and comprehensive. The first part, carrying as it does in its 32 chapters more than 300 pages (nearly one half of the book), is undoubtedly the best treatise in existence relating to its general subject, and the committee and the editor-in-chief, Dr. Kofoid, probably appreciate their great fortune in securing the help in this chapter of at least two of the very foremost investigators of termites who are living to-day—Dr. Thomas E. Snyder, of the U. S. Bureau of Entomology, and Professor S. F. Light, now of the University of California but formerly working in the Philippines and in China. Dr. Snyder contributes four of the chapters and Professor Light sixteen.

Termites have attracted the attention of many people for many years and for many reasons. Many books have been written about them, but nothing that is at once so sound, authoritative and comprehensive as this book has ever been published.

The reviewer will comment no further on the broad

[1] "Termites and Termite Control—A Report to the Termite Investigations Committee." By C. A. Kofoid (editor-in-chief), S. F. Light, A. C. Horner, Merle Randall, W. B. Herms, Earl E. Bowe. 8vo, pp. xvii + 734, frontispiece, 182 illustrations. University of California Press. 1934. $5.00.