

on account of better education and transport in recent years, are a potent factor in spreading the disease and in infecting new areas. This is General Graham's last annual report as Public Health Commissioner and he briefly reviews his decennium in that office and indicates the more salient advances.

THE FIELD MUSEUM ANTHROPOLOGICAL EXPEDITION TO THE NEAR EAST

THE Field Museum Anthropological Expedition to the Near East, sponsored by Marshall Field, has concluded its work for 1934, consisting of an anthropometric survey of the native population of Iraq, and similar studies in Persia and the Caucasus region of the U.S.S.R.

The leader of the expedition, Henry Field, assistant curator of physical anthropology, has returned to his post in the museum, ready to begin the task of assembling and studying the data collected, which has for its purpose an attempt to solve certain racial problems. One of the objectives is to determine the relationship of the peoples of the Near East, both those of to-day and their ancient ancestors, to the modern and ancient peoples of Africa, Europe and Asia. This is a question of great scientific importance into which no satisfactory research has previously been made.

The work of the expedition covered a period of ten months, during which 17,000 miles were traveled, and 3,000 persons were submitted to studies, consisting of anthropometric measurements and observations, the taking of front and profile photographs, hair samples, blood samples, and other data pertinent to tracing racial origins. In addition to its anthropological work, the expedition collected 3,000 animals, 1,000 insects, 2,600 plants and a quantity of geological material, for the departments of zoology, botany and geology.

Mr. Field was accompanied by Richard A. Martin, of Chicago, who as photographer made 7,000 negatives, and in addition collected the zoological material, as well as assisting the leader in the anthropological work. As many as twelve assistants were attached to the expedition temporarily at various points for local work. The anthropological studies were a continuation of the survey begun by Mr. Field in 1925.

Observations were made upon selected subjects from each of the important racial groups. Of special interest in Iraq were the Kurds, fierce-looking mountain tribesmen, of whom 750 submitted to the anthropologists' calipers and cameras, and the Yezidis, fanatical devil-worshipers, 300 of whom cooperated by acting as scientific specimens. Forty separate measurements and observations were made on each

individual. Living in tents as guests of Sheikh Agil, great desert chieftain of the Shammar Beduins, the members of the expedition were enabled to measure 450 members of this tribe.

The expedition made an archeological survey of the North Arabian Desert, crossing from Baghdad to Trans-Jordan Palestine and Syria, and thence returning to Iraq. During this trip a large number of prehistoric flint implements testifying to the existence of early man in this area were collected.

After five months in these areas, the expedition proceeded to Persia, where anthropological studies were made of some 250 individuals. After completing its work in that country, the expedition entered the U.S.S.R. at Baku, and traveled through the Caucasus to Kiev, Moscow and Leningrad. In the mountains of the Caucasus some 200 men and women were studied.

PENNSYLVANIA'S PRIMEVAL FOREST

EDWARD E. WILDMAN, member of the "Tionesta Committee" of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, writes that on Friday, November 23, 1934, the National Forest Conservation Commission approved the purchase by the United States Forest Service of 4,000 acres of primeval forest still standing in Warren and McKean Counties, Pennsylvania, in the northwest section of the state, and within the limits of the Allegheny National Forest Reservation. It is known as the Tionesta Tract.

The stand is mainly a hemlock-mixed hardwood type, with fine old trees here and there of black cherry and cucumber. The Pennsylvania Forestry Association has been urging the preservation of this tract for the past three years as a forest laboratory where only observation, not experimentation, should be carried on. It is with this understanding that the commission authorized its purchase. Trails will be made into the forest where they can be laid without cutting, but no camping there is contemplated.

Under the title "The Thousandth Acre," the tract was described by the Allegheny Forest Research director, R. D. Forbes, recently in *American Forests*.

The Forest Service wants to see how this forest maintains itself and its wild life century after century totally undisturbed by man. Its fauna and flora are typical of the Middle Atlantic States, and therefore this tract is unique, for those of the nearest primeval regions now preserved—the Adirondacks on the north and the Great Smokies on the south—are different in many features. Mr. Wildman writes:

Not only professional foresters, but every student of natural history and every lover of the untouched wilderness will be glad to hear of the success of the association in this endeavor.