

and the chief business was to see how far it was possible to adhere, so far as India was concerned, to the African Convention. They had reason to hope that the All-India conference would prove to be a direct step towards a conference to deal with a large part of Asia and Australasia.

One of the greatest troubles that had existed in Africa for a long time had been a plague of locusts. A new method of dealing with it by the use of aeroplanes had been adopted and a powder fatal to locusts and containing arsenic in some form had been used. It was very effective, but it also, either directly or indirectly, killed a large number of other kinds of animal life. They had been considering the matter and collecting all the information they could about it, and there was some hope now of getting a preparation which, while destructive to locusts, would not do damage to other forms of life.

The executive committee of the society reported that the fate of seals both on the southwest coasts of Britain and also in the waters of Newfoundland and Labrador continued to exercise their attention. Regarding Cornish seals they were now consulting various authorities of scientific note and were endeavoring to arrive at an unbiased view of the situation before deciding on any definite representations in official quarters.

A STUDY OF AIR POLLUTION IN NEW YORK CITY

A SURVEY of air pollution which it is hoped will provide the basis for purer air and more sunshine in Greater New York will be undertaken as a Works Division project of the Emergency Relief Bureau under the auspices of the Department of Health, according to an announcement made by Oswald W. Knauth, chairman and executive director of the bureau.

With the cooperation of Health Commissioner John L. Rice, combustion engineers, chemists and bacteriologists will take part in the work. The plan also calls for inspectors, many of whom will be engineers, who will be assigned throughout the city to watch for undue smoke from factory chimneys, apartment house incinerators, automobile exhausts, steamboat funnels and other sources of air pollution. Offending equipment will be investigated to determine the cause of the faulty combustion and each case of air pollution, whether by smoke, gas, fume, or by dust and dirt, will be reported to the Department of Health for action. The engineers will also explain how defects can be remedied and will supplement this service with an educational campaign among building owners and others, both by personal interview and by the distribution of printed technical information.

Five observation posts will be established on high buildings in the more congested districts, where hourly examinations will be made throughout the day for comparison with the Riegelmann chart, which gives a

standard of comparison generally accepted in studies of this type. Dust caps will be placed at strategic points throughout the five boroughs and the accumulations in these will be analyzed, both quantitatively and qualitatively, by chemists at regular intervals for bacteriological content.

Observation posts are also to be established at Jones Beach and in Westchester to make similar readings and analyses for purpose of comparison.

SIGMA XI LECTURES

DR. KARL LASHLEY, professor of psychology at the University of Chicago, who recently accepted a call to Harvard University, delivered the Sigma Xi annual circuit lecture at the Kansas State College and at the Universities of Kansas and Missouri, giving in each case the annual initiation address. His subject was "Functional Reorganization after Brain Injuries."

Dr. Harlan T. Stetson, visiting professor at the Institute of Geographical Exploration, Harvard University, addressed the Brown University chapter on April 16 on "Earth-Moon Relations."

Professor R. A. Wardle, of the University of Manitoba, on April 11 addressed the chapter at the Iowa State College on "Zoological Problems of the Canadian West."

The annual dinner of the Rensselaer Chapter was held at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute on April 26. Dr. Edgar Allen, of Yale University, spoke on "The Endocrine Control of Reproduction."

Professor Robert H. Baker, of the Observatory of the University of Illinois, gave two lectures on April 16 and 17 under the auspices of the Ohio University Club on "The Present Great Problems of Astronomy" and "Beyond the Milky Way."

DETENTION OF PROFESSOR KAPITZA IN RUSSIA

PROFESSOR PETER KAPITZA, who has been conducting researches in the Mond Laboratory at the University of Cambridge, has been detained in Russia where he went to attend a conference in honor of Mendeleef. When he was preparing to return to Great Britain he was told that the government would not renew his passport as his services were needed as director of a new Institute of Physical Research under the Academy of Sciences at Leningrad.

In a long letter to the London *Times*, fully reported by wireless to *The New York Times*, Lord Rutherford says that Professor Kapitza after twelve years of work was on the eve of completing experiments expected to throw new light on the properties of matter in intense magnetic fields at the lowest possible temperatures. He further writes:

Professor Kapitza, although he long resided in England, remained a Soviet citizen and a loyal one, who regu-