

although there is more rain in the summer, the water quickly evaporates, owing to the heat which sometimes reaches over 100° F." In this region were recorded species of important plants such as wheat grass, brome grass, blue grass, rye grass, fescue, alfalfa, lespedeza, and other lesser known species of possible value. About twenty different grasses and four species of shrubs were reported, but no trees were recorded in this section.

In addition to the plains region, considerable areas of unstable and in some places movable sand dunes were encountered. The greater part of the sand dunes were more or less covered with turf. Various species of wheat grass including *Agropyron pseudoagropyrum*, blue-joint, June grass, foxtail, alfalfa, clovers and other lesser known grasses, shrubs and trees were reported in this region.

The bench lands in the river valleys are covered with perennial grasses, shrubs and trees which are "able to withstand, without any failure," the winds, the heat and the cold. Various species of *Spodiopogon*, *Arundinella*, *Digitaria*, *Stipa*, *Calamagrostis*, *Koleria*, *Melica*, *Festuca*, *Bromus*, *Salix*, *Quercus*, *Ulmus*, *Rosa*, *Armeniaca*, *Medicago*, *Astragalus*, *Vicia*, *Securinega* and *Thymus* were reported.

Seeds of the plant species already obtained from the Roerich expedition and now being grown in experimental greenhouses include *Stipa* or needlegrass, *Agropyron* or wheat grass, including the species *pseudoagropyrum*, *lespedeza*, *trifolium* and *elymus* or rye grass.

THE UNION CATALOGUE OF MEDICAL LITERATURE

Two years ago the Institute of Medicine of Chicago made available an initial fund for the establishment of a union catalogue of medical literature in Chicago. The work of organization of this project was entrusted to a Committee on Coordination of Medical Libraries in Chicago, which had been appointed a year before.

The first aim of the committee was to bring about closer integration of effort among the major medicobiological libraries, including dental and pharmacological, of the city (John Crerar Library, Universities of Chicago, Illinois, Northwestern and Loyola, Rush Medical College) to obviate unnecessary duplication, triplication or even quadruplication of special literature, and divert the economies achieved to a fuller representation of the world's medical literature in Chicago. The second aim was the creation of a union card index centrally placed, so that investigators in medical problems are able to locate the desired reference volumes with the least expenditure of time and energy.

It is hoped that eventually the service of the catalogue will be made even more effective by the attachment of a permanent librarian and the availability of information by telephone. The task of achieving such a union catalogue and its cost in effort and money are much greater than the original estimates indicated. The work towards its completion is still in progress, but is pushed as quickly as possible. Every month these different medical libraries are sending in the cards of their new acquisitions, so that the catalogue is brought to date. It is hoped that in time the important holdings in the smaller medical libraries in the city will be represented in the catalogue.

The final editing of this union index may not be accomplished before another two or three years have passed. Despite its present gaps and imperfections, it has already given valuable service to the medical librarians of the city, and to investigators who were aware of its existence. The union catalogue is now open to a wider medical public, which is invited to make use of it for reference and to cooperate in its further development and extension of service. It is to be found on the twelfth floor, or floor of the medical reading rooms, in the John Crerar Library.

Further information concerning it may be obtained from the medical librarians indicated above, or from the central office of the Institute of Medicine of Chicago, 629 South Wood Street. Criticisms or suggestions should be sent to the latter. The chairman of the committee is Professor Otto F. Kampmeier, department of anatomy, College of Medicine, University of Illinois, Chicago.

THE MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

THE summer foray of the Mycological Society of America will be held at Ithaca, N. Y., from August 20 to 23, inclusive. The mycological laboratories of Cornell University on the third floor of the Plant Science Building will serve as headquarters. The local committee in charge of arrangements will consist of Professor H. M. Fitzpatrick and Professor H. H. Whetzel. The Ithaca members of the society extend a cordial invitation to all mycologists to attend. Lodging and meals will be provided at reasonable rates at rooming houses bordering the campus and at the university dining halls. Camp sites are available nearby for any who desire to use tents.

Ithaca is located in the scenic Finger Lakes region of central New York at the head of Cayuga Lake, and is well known to botanists for the natural beauty of its surroundings and the richness of its flora. Within easy reach are fresh-water marshes and lakes, peat and marl bogs, numerous small gorges with many waterfalls, upland woods and open fields. High hills afford a variation in elevation of more than fifteen