

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

hundred feet with a corresponding difference in flora. In most seasons fungi occur in profusion, and in only the most unusual August is the collecting unsatisfactory. Pleasant days and cool nights are to be expected. The laboratories are well equipped with facilities for handling the materials collected. The herbarium, containing the specimens of Atkinson and his students, is available for consultation.

Members of the society and other students of the fungi are urged to make careful note of the dates of the foray and to arrange their summer plans to include it. All who plan to attend are asked to advise the local committee well in advance in order that adequate arrangements may be made.

THE REORGANIZATION OF THE NEUROLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF NEW YORK CITY

DR. FREDERICK TILNEY, professor of neurology at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, was elected medical director of the Neurological Institute, at a meeting on July 9 of the board of trustees, of which Floyd B. Odum is president.

Dr. Tilney has been associated with the Neurological Institute since 1919, serving recently as chairman of its committee on medical research. The medical directorship is a new position, and according to plans for the reorganization of the institute two assistant medical directors to conduct special departments will be appointed.

The institute was founded in 1909, reorganized in 1920, and in 1929 was moved to its present location as one of the units in the Medical Center. It is now proposed to develop an entirely new department in the institute and to organize it in association with the College of Physicians and Surgeons so that it would be in a position to concern itself with the physiology of the nervous system. Plans are also being made to enlarge the department of child neurology, recently organized under the directorship of Dr. Bernard Sachs, by means of a gift from the Friedsam Foundation. Plans are also under way to extend laboratory facilities to several additional floors in the institute.

At the recent meeting the number of the trustees was increased from twenty-five to fifty. Dr. Dudley Roberts was elected vice-president and was appointed chairman of the executive council, ten of whose members are chairmen of newly established committees, as follows: scientific activities, Dr. Roberts; hospital management, Charles F. Neergaard; professional staff, Dr. Cassius H. Watson; nursing, Mrs. Henry P. Davison; out-patient department, Gordon Abbott; buildings and grounds, Maurice Wertheim; publicity

and community relations, Mrs. Ogden Reid; law, Harold B. Thorne, Jr.

Under the revised rules, the institute will maintain a hospital, emergency service and out-patient department for those suffering from nervous troubles, with free service for those who are unable to pay; provide facilities for the training of undergraduate and post-graduate medical students in the treatment of mental disease and instruction of nurses in the care of such patients, and provide for study and research into the causes, preventive methods and treatment of nervous diseases.

MEMORIALS AND RECENT DEATHS

A TABLET in memory of Dr. Clarence H. Eckles was presented to the University of Minnesota on June 15 by the dairy interests of the Northwest. Dr. Eckles was chief of the Division of Dairy Husbandry at the University of Minnesota from 1919 to 1933. The tablet is placed in Haecker Hall, the Dairy Building at the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, St. Paul, which Dr. Eckles was instrumental in securing for the College of Agriculture.

ACCORDING to *Nature*, the admirers, friends and pupils of the late Dr. Émile Roux, director of the Institut Pasteur in Paris, have decided to establish a national fund to be known as the Roux Foundation to pay the expenses of young students of biology. The general secretaries are M. Sieur, Inspector-General of the French Army, and Professor Marchoux, member of the Academy of Medicine. Subscriptions should be sent to the treasurer, M. Dufaure, 205 rue de Vaugirard, Paris.

DR. MARION DORSET, co-discoverer of the serum to prevent hog cholera, who had been chief of the biochemic division of the Bureau of Animal Husbandry of the Department of Agriculture since 1904, died on July 14 at the age of sixty-two years.

A. F. WYNN, for nearly twenty years curator of the Lyman Entomological Collection and Library at McGill University, died on July 3.

DR. DANIEL H. SQUIRE, dean of the University of Buffalo School of Dentistry since 1912, died on July 6.

Nature records the death of Colonel W. C. Blackett, past president of the Institution of Mining Engineers and of the North of England Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, on June 13, aged seventy-five years, and on June 19 of W. S. Franks, who, for twenty-five years, was in charge of the Brockhurst Observatory, East Grinstead, known for his work on the colors of stars, aged eighty-four years.