

cut and worked bone and masses of hay cut for food for the ground-sloth led us to infer that man lived in Patagonia with the various Pleistocene mammals which are now extinct.

REMOTE ISLANDS

The races of men who eventually reached New Zealand and other remote islands were so far advanced

in civilized life that they scarcely concern a paleontologist. They only interest him on account of the disturbance of the existing wild life and the extinctions which they have caused. The ethnologist now joins the human anatomist in attempting to explain the distribution of these people and to discover their relationships. They occupy a lowly sphere in the modern world.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

ACCORDING to the Geneva correspondent of the *British Medical Journal*, the Health Organization of the League of Nations received the usual compliments during the discussions in the Assembly, both in the second committee where the work of the organization is reviewed, and in the fourth, where the budget is approved. The amount estimated in the budget of 1936 for the International Health Organization is 1,180,000 Swiss francs, or about \$375,000 at the present rate of exchange. Of this sum the League contribution represents about three fourths, and the remainder is supplied by grants from the Rockefeller Foundation. The allocation which the League itself affords for health purposes is a sum about equal to the contribution it receives from Australia or Czechoslovakia. The health section consists of twenty-three posts, under a medical director, who receives a maximum salary of 53,000 Swiss francs, and eight immediate assistants, whose maximum is 28,000. The grants of the Rockefeller Foundation are made chiefly to provide the salaries of the special technical staff, which comprises a further eleven members, and is engaged in the service of epidemiological intelligence and health statistics.

A contribution of 20,000 Swiss francs annually is made by the Foundation to the Eastern Bureau at Singapore, which is also supported by League contributions and by contributions from certain Governments in the East. This Eastern Bureau has a director, two deputy directors and a staff of ten. Two considerable items in its budget for 1936 are to meet the expenses of a rural hygiene conference and an international course on malaria, both to be held in the Far East. The League is also committed to certain health and other investigations in Latin America, for which a sum of 100,000 francs has been set apart; a part of this will be devoted to the international leprosy center placed under the auspices of the League by the Brazilian Government.

During 1936 the Health Organization will pursue certain special technical studies which have been referred to it, such as rural hygiene and housing, nutrition and physical education. Its permanent tasks are

the collection of epidemiological intelligence and health statistics, international studies on malariology, biological standardization, technical studies in the sphere of the campaign against narcotic drugs and general and technical liaison with the national health administrations. The discussion in the Assembly revealed a "push" in various countries towards rural rehousing. Signor Mussolini some time ago ordered a census of rural dwellings throughout Italy, and as a result 170,000 such houses have been marked for demolition, 500,000 for serious reconditioning to make them fit for human habitation and a million more for minor repairs. The Duce has declared that within ten years every agricultural laborer must be provided with a healthy and spacious dwelling. To this end a rural housing exhibition and conference is to be held next year in Rome. France also has made an extensive inquiry into the same subject. To the discussion on health organization Great Britain contributed an account of the forthcoming conference in Geneva on biological standardization, which it is hoped may give rise to concrete proposals for a wider use of the various standards prepared by the permanent commission of experts.

THE FLOWER AND FIFTH AVENUE HOSPITALS OF NEW YORK CITY

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Fifth Avenue Hospital in New York City, held on October 16, the following members of the Board of Trustees of the New York Homeopathic Medical College and Flower Hospital were elected members of the board of the Fifth Avenue Hospital: William M. Baldwin, Thomas C. Buek, Eversley Childs, Jr., Joshua B. Everett, William H. English, Charles D. Halsey, David Q. Hammond, Clifford Hemphill, James M. Hills, Henry Clay Irons, George Link, Jr., James M. Mathes, Samuel R. Milbank, George S. Piper, Robert T. Pollock, Charles Presbrey and Webster B. Todd.

This action, which follows months of quiet negotiation between the two institutions, represents the first step in developing a close affiliation. For the present, each institution through its respective boards will operate independently although along parallel lines.

At a subsequent meeting held on October 22, the following officers were elected: Claude A. Burrett, M.D., *director*; David Q. Hammond, *superintendent*; Beatrice E. Ritter, R.N., *principal of the School of Nursing*.

The Fifth Avenue Hospital building will be used jointly by both hospitals under one administrative management charged with the responsibility for carrying out the chartered provisions of each.

The Fifth Avenue Hospital, erected in 1922, with a potential bed capacity for 500 patients, has been operated with 285 active beds due to the necessity of utilizing hospital floors for nurses' quarters. Ample opportunity to fully meet the requirements of both institutions for expansion to full capacity waits on the erection of an adequate nurses' home.

Both boards are convinced that the adopted program is mutually advantageous. The Fifth Avenue Hospital will greatly strengthen the educational program of the Flower Hospital. This together with the Metropolitan, one of New York City's great municipal hospitals, will give the college unexcelled opportunity for clinical teaching and research. Flower Hospital, which has been utilizing clinical buildings erected half a century ago, will receive all the advantages of a modern plant and an opportunity to conserve its assets for income. Such conservation will permit the later erection of new college buildings, adequate room for which is available on unused property owned by and adjacent to the Fifth Avenue Hospital should such use prove mutually feasible to both boards of trustees in the future.

It is believed that the medical staffs of both institutions will find increasing opportunity for teaching, research and the care of the sick poor by virtue of this cooperative effort of both boards.

GRANTS IN AID OF RESEARCH OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

At its October meeting the Council of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences voted grants-in-aid from its Permanent Science Fund as follows:

To Professor James A. Beattie, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, \$500 to assist him in making a study of the relations existing between the International Temperature Scale and the thermodynamic scale.

To Dr. N. T. Bobrovnikoff, acting director of the Perkins Observatory, Delaware, Ohio, \$600 for the construction of a grating spectrograph for the Cassegrain focus of the 69-inch Perkins Reflector, to aid in investigation of stellar spectra in the visual and infra-red regions.

To Professor Joseph C. Boyce, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, \$400 to be spent for equipment, supplies

and assistance in an investigation of the extreme ultraviolet spectra of certain elements.

To Professor Edward Franklin Castetter, University of New Mexico, \$100 to aid in the expenses of a field study of the wild plants used for food, ceremonials and medicine by the Mojave Indians.

To Dr. T. T. Chen, Sterling research fellow of Yale University, \$300 to aid in completing his collection of Opalinid Ciliates inhabiting frogs and toads as a means of furthering his study of the biology of that group.

To Professor Thomas Harper Goodspeed, University of California, \$750 to assist in financing an expedition to South America for the purpose of collecting seeds and specimens of plants of the genus *Nicotiana*.

To Dr. Helmut Landsberg, Pennsylvania State College, \$300 for assistance in compiling and evaluating data in an investigation of suspensions in air with particular reference to the problem of uncharged particles of larger radii.

To Professor K. Lark-Horovitz, Purdue University, \$300 for the purchase of certain equipment to be used in a study of low energy particles emitted in nuclear disintegration processes.

The next meeting of the Permanent Science Fund Committee of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences will be held on March 24. Applications for grants-in-aid should be addressed to the chairman of the committee, Professor E. M. East, Bussey Institution, Forest Hills, Massachusetts. Applications to be considered must be received on or before March 1.

PROFESSOR GERRIT GRIJNS

DR. GERRIT GRIJNS, professor of animal physiology in the College of Agriculture of Wageningen, Holland, this year reached the retirement age and gave his final lecture on June 28, after which he was honored by a special committee in the auditorium of the college. It might be of interest to students in nutrition to give here a memorandum of Dr. Grijns's life and work.

He was born in 1865 in Leerdam, the Province of Zuid-Holland, and after attending the secondary school in Delft, he took up the study of medicine in the University of Utrecht, where in 1891 he obtained his degree of doctor of medicine. After this he spent some time in Germany, studying physiology under Dr. Carl Ludwig in Leipzig. At the end of 1892 he departed for the Dutch East Indies as a medical officer and joined the scientific staff of Dr. C. Eijkman, who since 1889 had been the first director of the medical laboratory at Weltevreden, on the island of Java, and who in the course of his experimentations found that beriberi in man was brought about by a long-continued consumption of polished rice. This disease was similar to polyneuritis, a disease he observed when chickens