

the biological investigator of either yesterday or today may be permitted to give his best results to the world or whether he is to be more and more insulated by his own progress; whether, indeed, present man-in-the-mass has evolved sufficiently to prefer light to twilight, truth to tradition. Certainly until this issue has

been definitely decided every zoologist will feel sure that mankind is worthy of much more than his very best efforts; but he, along with all other enlightened men, must find, recognize and overcome those forces which now obstruct the release of his best prizes to present generations of man.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE SIXTH INTERNATIONAL BOTANICAL CONGRESS

At the sixth International Botanical Congress meeting in Amsterdam from September 2 to 7, the two following resolutions were passed:

It is proposed that the Botanical Section of the International Union of Biological Sciences should act as an administrative connecting link between the successive International Botanical Congresses, which maintain their full independence from an international point of view to such an extent that any country which has not joined the union will have quite the same rights as those which have joined. It is proposed that this Botanical Section be authorized to carry through any resolutions, carried by the International Botanical Congresses.

By reason of the growing financial difficulties and the prohibitive price, for certain museums and laboratories, of transmission by post, rail and boat, it becomes impossible to guarantee the indispensable exchange of collections of dried plants. It is therefore necessary to obtain for this exchange the free transport now accorded to the exchange of scientific publications. The congress asks the Office of the International Union of Biological Sciences to take the necessary steps with various governments in order to obtain this postal privilege.

The following resolution was passed in memory of the late Hugo de Vries:

The Sections of Genetics and Cytology of the Sixth International Botanical Congress take the occasion of their presence in Holland to record the deep sense of debt which the sciences of genetics and cytology owe to Hugo de Vries. It is a satisfaction that he could live to such a ripe old age and thus see imposing structure which has been erected on the foundations in the laying of which his painstaking investigations and prophetic vision had so large a share. The honorary secretary of the congress is hereby requested to spread this resolution on the minutes of the *Proceedings* and to send a copy to Mrs. de Vries with the sympathy of the congress and with the assurance that Hugo de Vries will remain for all time an inspiration to biologists and live as one of the immortal heroes of science.

APPROPRIATION FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE FEDERAL BUDGET

In a statement copyrighted by Science Service it is reported that funds for scientific research by the fed-

eral government will be increased by about \$5,000,000 during the fiscal year starting next July if the allotments in President Roosevelt's budget are followed by the Congress in making appropriations. Part of this increase represents a transfer of items from the emergency budget and part new funds under recent special legislation.

The Department of Agriculture receives most of the \$5,000,000 increase with an estimated \$3,500,000 more to devote to research than was available last year. New agencies will absorb the larger share of this. First there is the Soil Conservation Service, provided for by new legislation last April, which will receive \$2,250,000.

Then there is a special research fund provided for by the Bankhead-Jones Act of June 29, 1935, under which \$400,000 will be administered. Funds made available through the operation of this act have already enabled the initiation of nearly forty research projects on fundamental problems in biology, chemistry, meteorology and economics that have more or less direct bearing on agriculture.

The Beltsville, Md., research center will use about \$50,000. The Forest Service will receive an estimated extra \$300,000. But this amount is less than the emergency funds now available for research purposes that will probably be withdrawn or curtailed next year. The \$100,000 allotted for forest products investigations is mainly for the Forest Products Laboratory. This amount, unless augmented by other funds, will not be sufficient to maintain the laboratory in its present running order. Other increases will enable some of the regional stations to maintain or slightly enlarge their regular staffs, but these increases are based upon specific projects and must be used for them.

The Bureau of Chemistry and Soils receives about \$150,000. Of this, a part is for a new program of research provided for by the Congress on discovering industrial uses for farm products, but the major part is to be used toward the completion of the national soil survey.

The Public Health Service will get about \$1,350,000 more for research than their funds for the present year. This represents the funds provided for by the social security legislation.

The Coast and Geodetic Survey will receive about