

spoke at the gathering, urged the carrying out of this program which embodies these three main objectives.

The meeting was attended by prominent educators, naturalists and museum officials of Philadelphia and other cities, as well as by representative Philadelphians in social and civic circles. Mr. Morris, who gave the opening address, gave an outline of the history of the academy. He said that when the trustees began to study what should be done to meet increasing public demands, many avenues of approach suggested themselves. They were finally narrowed down to three main objectives for immediate consideration, as follows:

The first objective is the further development of our museum. We want a museum where *ideas* are on display rather than *things*. We are, therefore, starting a study that will result in a definite plan based upon the best advice and authority that we can get.

Second, we are going to render a more active service to the school children of Philadelphia. Last year some 30,000 came to the academy, some from such relatively distant points as Atlantic City and Reading. It is our intention to build a plan whereby the academy will provide them with a more concrete service. There are many things that can be done—guides, special courses, loan collections, trips, lectures, and natural science clubs are only a few of them.

Third, and last of these first steps, is the reestablishment of a department of paleontology. In this field we have the opportunity of building a department that does not duplicate the work of near-by institutions, and of filling a great gap. The academy has the collections and a great heritage in the work of such men as Leidy and Cope. Given a scientist who can put their collections in order, and make them available for study, we can render a real service. And I want to emphasize the fact that this is merely the entering wedge—the instrument that will show the practicability of closer cooperation with *all* the departments of the academy.

This program will be carried out under direction of an executive committee headed by Arthur E. Newbold, Jr., treasurer of the academy and a member of its board of trustees. The following trustees will serve as chairmen of the three committees: Museum Development, Frank B. Foster; Educational Cooperation, J. Stoddell Stokes; Department of Paleontology, Edgar B. Howard.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

At the annual meeting on January 13 of the trustees of the New York Botanical Garden Henry W. de Forest was reelected president; Henry de Forest Baldwin was reelected vice-president; John L. Merrill vice-president and treasurer, and Dr. Marshall A. Howe director and secretary.

Elective managers chosen for a 3-year term include Arthur M. Anderson, of Bedford, N. Y.; Clarence Lewis, of Sterlington; E. D. Merrill, of Harvard University (who until October 1 was director of the garden); Lewis Rutherford Morris, of New York City; Dr. Marshall A. Howe, Henry W. de Forest and Henry de la Montagne, Jr. Mrs. Samuel Seabury, Edward C. Delafield, Dr. Tracy E. Hazen, Mrs. Henry J. Fisher, Mrs. Frederick A. Godley, Mrs. Geo. McM. Godley, Mrs. William F. Hencken, Mrs. Henry F. Schwarz and Mrs. Townsend Scudder, were elected to membership in the corporation.

Dr. Howe, who before his election as director had been assistant director of the garden for eleven years, presented his first report. He emphasized horticultural displays of the garden and its increased services to the public.

Reviewing the scientific achievements of the staff he referred to the breeding of useful and decorative varieties of plants, research into the background of this work, and the identifying of many thousands of pressed plants. He reported the addition of nearly 54,000 specimens to the herbarium, raising the total number of specimens to 1,800,000. He acknowledged the botanical books that have appeared in the last year under the signature of staff members—notably Dr. H. A. Gleason's "Plants of the Vicinity of New York" and Dr. John K. Small's "Ferns of the Vicinity of New York." He called attention to the work of the 100 to 200 WPA employees, who have given substantial help during the year in clerical, scientific and specialized work indoors, and in gardening and construction and repair work both inside and out. He spoke at length on the numerous floral exhibits of 1935, through which the garden had been able to acquaint the public with suitable plants in great variety for out-of-door and indoor growth.

Cooperating with other institutions, the garden during 1935 gave away more than 48,000 duplicate herbarium specimens, and received nearly as many different ones in exchange. In addition, more than 17,000 sheets of pressed plant material were sent out on loan for students all over the world.

As a special service to members, choice shrubs, waterlilies, begonias and iris were distributed during the year. Six thousand packets of seed were mailed to 134 other botanical gardens and institutions, besides individuals, and 4,730 packets were received in return.

Dr. Howe also called attention to courses given at the garden, which are attended by members, professional gardeners, teachers and others.

THE NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

In calling the North American Wildlife Conference for February 3-7, President Roosevelt said:

My purpose is to bring together individuals, organizations and agencies interested in the restoration and conservation of wildlife resources. My hope is that through this conference new cooperation between public and private interests, and between Canada, Mexico and this country, will be developed; that from it will come constructive proposals for concrete action; that through these proposals existing state and federal governmental agencies and conservation groups can work cooperatively for the common good.

F. A. Silcox, chief of the United States Forest Service, was appointed chairman of the conference by the President, and a committee was designated to organize and develop a program.

Dr. Silcox says: All organizations and individuals interested in the restoration and conservation of wildlife are invited to attend and participate. Three major objectives constitute the fundamental purposes of the conference, as follows:

- (a) The organization of a permanent general federation of all agencies, societies, individuals and clubs interested in the restoration and conservation of wildlife resources with the avowed purpose of securing adequate recognition of the needs of wildlife resources;
- (b) The development of a North American program for the advancement of wildlife restoration and conservation;
- (c) The presentation of such facts, discoveries and information pertinent to wildlife as may contribute to the solution of our mutual problems.

A tentative proposal of methods for the permanent organization of a general federation of all wildlife conservation organizations and individuals will be presented by the committee on organization which will be subject to open discussion, modification and adoption by the conference. This federation if it is to be successful must confine itself to major objectives of national and state efficiency and support for recognized common aims. Such aims may be presumed to be:

- (a) The comprehensive restoration and conservation of wildlife resources;
- (b) Adequate financial support from public funds;
- (c) Recognition of conservationists in the selection of conservation executives;
- (d) Demand wildlife representation on state and federal resource and planning agencies and that in authorization of projects financed by public funds which affect land or waters important to wildlife adequate consideration be given to the biological consequences;
- (e) Effective registration of mass opposition to activities which have proved to be inimical to wildlife interests and which are without adequate justification for public good.
- (f) By a consideration of the international aspects of

wildlife, develop a program which would unite the interests of the nations involved.

The Mayflower Hotel, Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C., has been selected as general headquarters. All meetings will be held there except the daily mass meetings, which will be in the Connecting Wing Auditorium on Constitution Avenue. Requests for further information, and all communications, should be addressed to Mr. Silcox.

THE GOLD MEDAL AND FELLOWSHIPS OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE, NEW YORK

THE Gold Medal of the American Institute will be presented to Dr. John C. Merriam, secretary of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, at the annual dinner meeting, which will be held on February 6 at the Hotel Pierre at 7:30 p. m.

The medal is awarded to Dr. Merriam "for his discoveries in paleontology, his effective promotion of research and his recognition of the place of science in man's affairs."

Fellowships of the institute will be presented to Dr. Harrison E. Howe "for service to science and industry by the interchange of research results among investigators throughout the world and by creating a better public understanding of the functions of research and its place in the advance of civilization." To Howard W. Blakeslee "for his contribution to man's fuller understanding of the world in which he lives by accurate presentation of the news of science in the language of the layman and for his service to the development of science through fostering the public's interest in its advances."

The medal and fellowship presentations were made as follows by Alfred Knight, president of the institute:

Presentation of Dr. Harrison E. Howe by Dean Carl William Ackerman, School of Journalism, Columbia University. Address by Dr. Howe, editor of *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*, "Science As News."

Presentation of Howard W. Blakeslee by Dean Ackerman. Address by Mr. Blakeslee, science editor, Associated Press, "Influence on the Public of Science News in the Press."

Presentation of Dr. John C. Merriam by Dr. William K. Gregory, professor of Vertebrate Paleontology, Columbia University; curator, Department of Comparative Anatomy, and Department of Ichthyology, American Museum of Natural History. Address by Dr. Merriam, president, Carnegie Institution of Washington, "Science and Human Values."

RECENT DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. HENRY TABER, since 1921 professor emeritus of mathematics at Clark University, previously since 1888 docent and professor, died on January 6. He was seventy-five years old.