York for Singapore on December 29 on the *Kota Tjandi;* the others will go from Vancouver on the *Empress of Japan* on January 9. The two groups will connect at Singapore and proceed thence by rail, by way of Bangkok, to Chiengmai in northern Siam, where a camp will be established from which Dr. Carpenter will study for three or four months the social life of the gibbon.

Early in May, the whole expedition, except Dr. Carpenter, will go to British North Borneo. One group, using Jesselton as a base, will make collections on the higher slopes of Mt. Kinabalu, and the other, using Sandaken as a base of supplies, will make studies and collections in the lowland forest on the east coast of the island. The North Borneo investigation will terminate in August so that certain members of the expedition may return to the United States in time to resume their college work in the autumn.

In July, when the rainy season begins in northern Siam, Dr. Carpenter will move his camp to the mountains of northern Sumatra, where Harold J. Coolidge will later join him; they will make studies of the orang-utan. At the conclusion of the work in north Borneo, Mr. Coolidge will spend a month in Java and another in Sumatra making a survey of wild life; that study is sponsored by the American Committee for International Wild Life Protection and will be supported by a special grant from the Bureau of International Research of Harvard University and Radcliffe College.

The project as a whole will be known as the Asiatic Primate Expedition. It will be financed by the Carnegie Institution, the Columbia University Council for Research in the Social Sciences, the Milton Fund at Harvard, and also by private donations.

THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL TESTING CONGRESS

AT its first congress, held in Zurich in September, 1931, the International Association for Testing Materials has, according to the *Bulletin* of the American Society for Testing Materials, accepted an invitation from the committee representing British members to hold the next congress in Great Britain, and recently the permanent international committee approved the suggestion that the congress be held in London from April 19 to 24, 1937.

The object of the congresses held by the International Association for Testing Materials is to obtain international cooperation in the study of materials and their testing and to provide facilities for the exchange of views, experience and knowledge with regard to all matters connected with this subject.

The proceedings will be based on selected papers, which, by invitation, have been contributed by leading authorities in their respective fields throughout the world. Most of these invitations have been issued, and approximately 150 papers have been promised. Some twenty-two papers to be presented at the congress will be prepared by American authors. Matters in connection with American participation are being directed by W. H. Fulweiler, representative on the permanent committee. The organization of the congress has been undertaken by a congress organizing and reception committee, which consists of the British committee and representatives of many leading British institutions.

The subjects selected for discussion are divided into four groups dealing respectively with metals, inorganic materials, organic materials and subjects of general importance. The following subdivisions have been made:

Group A—Metals: (1) Behavior of metals (mechanical and chemical) as dependent upon temperature, particularly in regard to high temperatures; (2) progress of metallography; (3) light metals and their alloys; (4) wear and machinability.

Group B—Inorganic Materials: (1) Concrete and reinforced concrete; (2) erosion and corrosion of natural and artificial stone; (3) methods of testing ceramic bodies.

Group C—Organic Materials: (1) Textiles; (2) wood cellulose; (3) timber preservation; (4) aging of organic materials; (5) colors and varnishes.

Group D—Subjects of General Importance: (1) Relation between the results of laboratory tests and behavior in use and service; (2) the bearing of recent advances in physics and chemistry on the knowledge of materials; (3) the properties of materials for the thermal and acoustic insulation of buildings.

A Congress Book will be issued, which will contain, in addition to the papers presented, an account of the proceedings, articles by each of the four group presidents, in which attention will be directed to the principal additions to knowledge recorded in the papers and discussions. The papers as presented will generally not exceed 1,000 words each in length. They will be printed in English, French or German, in which languages the proceedings of the congress will be mainly conducted.

In addition to the technical sessions of the congress, numerous visits to places of scientific and industrial interest will be arranged, as well as excursions and social functions, including a banquet, a dance and official receptions.

Detailed information will be issued in due course. All requests for further information and inquiries should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary of the Congress, Mr. K. Headlam-Morley, at the offices of the British International Association for Testing Materials Committee, 28 Victoria St., London, S. W. 1. Sir Frank Smith, secretary of the Royal Society of Great

Britain and secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, is chairman of the executive committee on the congress organizing committee, and Dr. H. J. Gough, superintendent, Engineering Department, National Physical Laboratory, is chairman of the British International Association for Testing Materials committee.

A NEW SOIL SCIENCE SOCIETY

AT a joint meeting of the Soils Section of the American Society of Agronomy and of the American Soil Survey Association in Washington, D. C., in late November, these organizations voted to merge and form the Soil Science Society of America. The object of the new society is to foster all phases of soil science. Sections have been organized in soil physics, soil chemistry, soil microbiology, soil fertility, soil morphology, classification and cartography and soil technology. A close affiliation with the American Society of Agronomy will be maintained. The papers presented at the annual meeting will be published in a volume of *Proceedings*. This volume will supersede the annual *Bulletin* of the American Soil Survey Association. The society elected the following officers:

President, Richard Bradfield, the Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

Secretary and Vice-President, A. M. O'Neal, Sugar Cane Soil Laboratory, Houma, La.

Secretary-Treasurer, P. E. Brown, Department of Soils, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.

Chairmen of the various Sections:

I. Soil Physics, H. E. Middleton, Division of Research, Soil Conservation Service, Washington, D. C.

II. Soil Chemistry, S. F. Thornton, Purdue Agriculture Experiment Station, Lafayette, Ind.

III. Soil Microbiology, L. M. Turk, Department of Soils, Michigan State College, East Lansing.

IV. Soil Fertility, W. H. Pierre, Department of Agronomy, West Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, Morgantown.

V. Soil Morphology, Classification and Cartography, L. C. Wheeting, Department of Agronomy, Washington State College, Pullman, Wash.

VI. Soil Technology, L. R. Schoenmann, Department of Land Use, University of Michigan.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

AS has already been announced in SCIENCE, the annual meeting of the British Association will be held next year in Nottingham from September 1 to 8, under the presidency of Sir Edward Poulton. Presidents of the sections have been elected as follows: Section A (Mathematical and Physical Sciences), Dr. G. W. C. Kaye; B (Chemistry), Dr. F. L. Pyman; C (Geology), Professor L. J. Wills; D (Zoology), Professor F. A. E. Crew; E (Geography), Professor C. B. Fawcett; F (Economics), Professor P. Sargant Florence; G (Engineering), Sir Alexander Gibb; H (Anthropology), Dr. J. H. Hutton; I (Physiology), Dr. E. P. Poulton; J (Psychology), Dr. Mary Collins; K (Botany), Professor E. J. Salisbury; L (Education), H. G. Wells; M (Agriculture), J. M. Caie.

THE Penrose Medal of the Geological Society of America for 1936 was presented on December 30 to Dr. Arthur Philemon Coleman, professor of geology emeritus at the University of Toronto. The award is made "in recognition of eminent research in pure geology and of outstanding original contributions of achievements which mark a decided advance in the science of geology."

DR. RICHARD E. SHOPE, of the department of animal and plant pathology of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research at Princeton, N. J., has been awarded the John Phillips Memorial Medal for the year 1937 by the American College of Physicians.

THE New York Academy of Sciences has awarded the A. Cressy Morrison prize of $250 to Dr. Albert F. Blakeslee, A. Dorothy Bergner and Amos G. Avery, of the department of genetics, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Cold Spring Harbor, L. I., for their paper on "The Geographical Distribution of Chromosomal Prime Types of the Jimson Weed." The second prize of $150 has been awarded to Dr. Frederick Fey Sheldon, of the University of California, for his paper on "The Bones, Muscles and Probable Evolution of the Catfish and Related Species."

THE American Institute, New York City, has made the following awards: A fellowship to Watson Davis, director of Science Service, for "interpreting to the people of the nation the rapid progress of science upon which modern civilization depends and for the organized dissemination of research findings as news"; a gold medal to the Bell Telephone Laboratories for "researches in electrical science which, applied to communication, have promoted understanding, security and commerce among people by transmitting human thought instantly throughout the world."

AT the one hundred and eighteenth annual meeting of the New York Academy of Sciences, Dr. George H. Sherwood, educational director of the American Museum of Natural History, was reelected honorary president. Honorary members were elected as follows: Professor K. S. Lashley, of Harvard University; Pro-