depends on close cooperation of landowners and conservation agencies.

Practical plans that will provide for wildlife needs without interfering with other desirable objectives are being furnished by the survey to federal, state and local agencies that administer land. The survey also has put into operation this year nine cooperative wildlife research and demonstration units at land-grant colleges to show landowners that it is not only desirable but also practical to consider wildlife in their land use programs.

The principal research activities during the past year included the following: Intensified investigation of waterfowl conditions and habitats; transplanting of Pacific-coast eelgrass at certain points along the Atlantic coast in an experiment to reestablish an important waterfowl food all but eradicated by disease; renewed efforts to insure preservation of wildlife habitat in areas where mosquito-control work is planned or in progress; studies of the effects of crow-waterfowl relationships on breeding grounds and efforts to determine the effects of crow control on duckling mortality, and investigation of fox depredations on quail through a study of mortality at nests and studies of the local food habits of foxes. The bureau developed a self-feeding system at the Rabbit Experiment Station in California that reduces feed costs with production of superior-quality meat and established a research center at the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge in Oklahoma. Congress authorized the purchase of land in New York on which the Fur Animal Experiment Station is located.

Biologists of the survey also continued research on forest wildlife relationships and investigations of Alaskan conditions for buffalo and musk oxen. Important bird colonies not heretofore mentioned in reports or literature were discovered on some of the major islands of the Aleutian chain by a field party, including two biologists, that spent five months in studying conditions of wildlife on these islands.

The report says that more than 225,000 birds were banded by cooperators of the bureau during the year; 269 mammal specimens were added to the collection, and 305 bird specimens were acquired.

Other features of the year's work summarized by Dr. Gabrielson in the early pages of his report are as follows:

Thirty-two small refuges were established in North Dakota on areas reserved for wildlife and water conservation by means of gratuitous easements. An allotment of $286,240 from the Works Progress Administration made it possible to develop the refuges.

An act to make effective in this country a convention between the United States and Mexico for the protection of migratory birds and game animals was passed by the Congress and approved by President Roosevelt. Two investigators cooperated with Mexican authorities in the preliminary work on the treaty. Mexico has not yet ratified. The convention will become effective upon exchange of ratifications.

By a cooperative arrangement with the Works Progress Administration the bureau will investigate all proposed drainage projects that may materially affect wildlife environment.

The number of injurious rodents was reduced on 32,547,769 acres for the protection of farm crops, range grasses, silvicultural plantings, reclamation waterways and surface soils threatened by erosion. Rodent control was extended to Hawaii, where rats seriously interfere with pineapple and sugarcane production and menace public health as carriers of bubonic plague.

GIFT OF THE GENERAL EDUCATION BOARD TO THE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

THE General Education Board of New York has given to the University of Chicago the sum of $3,000,000 to be spent for the development of the Medical School and the improvement of the university generally. This is the largest unrestricted gift ever received by the university.

President Robert M. Hutchins stated that the money presumably will be expended during the next five or six years and emphasized the necessity of undertaking within that period to replace the gift by raising additional endowment of not less than $15,000,000 for medical and general university support.

Although the trustees have absolute discretion in spending the grant, the background of the discussions leading to the gift suggested that about $360,000 a year would go to medicine. Dr. Hutchins explained that the primary interest of the General Education Board in making the grant was in medicine. The Medical School was founded in 1927 with the help of the board, which since has been making temporary grants to assist the school. The present gift is intended to continue these grants and to provide a substantial sum for improvement.

The board regarded support of the university generally as incidental to the support of the Medical School, believing it impossible to develop a strong medical school apart from a strong university because of the dependence of medical education and research on the closest possible association with good departments in the natural sciences.

In making this grant, the board made clear the fact that the gift was not to be regarded as implying the existence of any peculiar responsibility to the University of Chicago.

The following statement was made:

We do not recognize any such responsibility, nor have our trustees ever considered that they were under any

obligation to the university that differed in any way from the obligation which they have to other institutions of similar rank.

We emphasize this point because in some quarters it has been intimated that public opinion in the Middle West and elsewhere has believed that the Rockefeller board bore a peculiar and unique relationship to the university which was not shared by other educational institutions. For the sake of the university itself, and the necessity which it faces of developing a broad basis of financial support, we would want emphatically to disavow this opinion.

Of the $360,000 a year to be devoted to medicine, $250,000 continues present grants and $110,000 probably will be used to support free beds in the university hospitals. This sum would support 46 free beds, and contribute to the educational and scientific effectiveness of the faculty of the school. The money made available for general purposes of the university probably will be used for new appointments, research, library books and salary increases.

AWARD OF THE EDISON MEDAL TO DR. ALEX DOW

DR. ALEX DOW, president of the Detroit Edison Company, has been awarded the Edison Medal for 1936 of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers "for outstanding leadership in the development of the central station industry and its service to the public." The medal, which was founded by friends and associates of the late Thomas A. Edison and is awarded annually for "meritorious achievement in electrical science, electrical engineering, or the electrical arts," will be presented to Dr. Dow during the winter convention of the institute in New York City, which will be held from January 25 to 29.

Dr. Dow was born in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1862, and although he is not a graduate of a technical school, he has received the honorary degrees of master of engineering (1911) and doctor of engineering (1924) from the University of Michigan and doctor of science (1935) from the University of Detroit.

During the period 1874–82, he was employed as junior clerk and stenographer in a railroad office and in the offices of a steamship company in Liverpool, England. In 1882 he came to the United States, and was employed in various departments of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company. Later he was transferred to the Baltimore and Ohio Telegraph Company to take charge of local line and instrument maintenance, with some construction and experimental work on telephones. In 1888 he was employed by the Brush Electric Company, Cleveland, Ohio, as installation electrician in the Chicago office, becoming district engineer in that office in 1889. In 1893, he accepted the opportunity to design and supervise the construction of the original public lighting plant of the city of Detroit, and in 1896 he became vice-president and general manager of the Edison Illuminating Company of Detroit. This company was succeeded by the Detroit Edison Company in 1903, and Dr. Dow was retained as vice-president until 1913, when he was made president.

Dr. Dow became a naturalized citizen in 1895. He has been a leading pioneer in the United States in the engineering, rate making and general operation of the electric light and power utility, and is given credit for both the engineering and financial success of his enterprises. He has supervised the design and construction of several generating stations of the Detroit Edison system and he is called the father of the so-called "big" steam boiler in the United States, having installed 2,350-horsepower boilers at a time when 600- to 750-horsepower units were commonly considered large. He was the first to adopt the underfeed stoker for large installations, and much of the earlier development of this type of equipment was made in his power plants.

OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

OFFICERS elected at the meeting of the council of the American Association on December 31 are as follows:

President: George D. Birkhoff, Harvard University.
Permanent Secretary: Forest R. Moulton, Chicago.
General Secretary: Otis W. Caldwell, Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research.
Treasurer: John L. Wirt, Washington.
Members of the Executive Committee: Edwin G. Conklin, Princeton University; Henry B. Ward, University of Illinois (emeritus).
Members of the Council: Vincent du Vigneaud, George Washington University; Sam F. Trelease, Columbia University.
Members of the Finance Committee: Arthur Keith, U. S. Geological Survey; Charles S. Baker, Washington.
Members of the Grants Committee: A. T. Poffenberger (Psychology), Columbia University; Jacob G. Lipman (Agriculture), New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station.
Trustee on the Board of Science Service: J. McKeen Cattell, editor of SCIENCE.
Vice-presidents of the Association and Chairmen of the Sections:
Mathematics (A): W. D. Cairns, Oberlin College.
Physics (B): Harvey Fletcher, Bell Telephone Laboratories.
Chemistry (C): Farrington Daniels, University of Wisconsin.