

Any modification of federal law relaxing restrictions on importations of live stock from countries where foot and mouth disease now exist should be vigorously opposed.

The Federal and State Governments should make adequate appropriations for wild life research.

The open season for trapping should be not more than two months in the prime fur season, issuance of special licenses for trappers only and passage of laws to protect fur bearers.

The following vice-presidents, to assist President Jay N. Darling, were elected: David Aylward, secretary of the Massachusetts Fish and Game Association, Peabody, Mass.; William L. Finley, of Portland, Ore., and Dr. Walter B. Jones, of Tuscaloosa, Ala., director of the Alabama Museum of Natural History and state geologist.

#### REORGANIZATION OF THE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

A JOINT committee, consisting of five members from the faculty of Columbia University and three members from the College of Pharmacy, has made a survey of the school in order to make suggestions in regard to enforcing higher standards of admission, the introduction of academic subjects into the curriculum and in general a closer relationship between the college and the university.

Representing Columbia University on the reorganization committee were: Arthur W. Thomas, professor of chemistry, *chairman*; Charles C. Lieb, Hosack professor of pharmacology; George B. Pegram, professor of physics; Frank H. Bowles, acting director of university admissions, and Frank D. Fackenthal, secretary of the university. Members of the College of Pharmacy were Edward Plaut, chairman of the board of trustees, *chairman*; Dr. Hugo H. Schaefer, associate professor of chemistry, and Dr. Charles W. Ballard, professor of materia medica. The report of the committee has been approved by the president and council of the university.

A greater interchange of students between the College of Pharmacy and the university is expected to result from the reorganization plan, which will go into effect at the opening of the September term. Many of the courses to be introduced will be identical with those now offered at Columbia College, especially in the field of chemistry.

In commenting on the plans for the reorganization Dr. Ballard said: "This is the first attempt in New York State to develop a close contact between a pharmacy school and its university. We anticipate fewer students the coming year as a result of the higher academic entrance requirements that the university will demand, but we need a higher type of pharmacist."

Another committee, consisting of Dean W. F. Rudd,

of the School of Pharmacy, Medical College of Virginia; Dr. W. G. Crockett, president of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, and Dr. Ernest Little, of Rutgers University, has been appointed to make a supplementary survey, to aid in the final reorganization plans.

#### ECLIPSE EXPEDITION TO THE SOUTH SEAS

PROFESSOR S. A. MITCHELL, director of the Leander McCormick Observatory of the University of Virginia, will be the leader of an expedition sponsored by the National Geographic Society and with the cooperation of the U. S. Navy. The total solar eclipse of June 8 will be observed from one of the islands of the Phoenix Group in the South Pacific Ocean. The other members of the scientific party are: Captain J. F. Hellweg, U. S. N., superintendent of the U. S. Naval Observatory, who will have charge of the Navy's participation in the expedition; Dr. Heber D. Curtis, director of the University of Michigan Observatory; Dr. Paul A. McNally, S.J., director of the Georgetown University Observatory; Professor F. K. Richtmyer, Cornell University; Dr. Theodore Dunham, Mt. Wilson Observatory; Harold E. Sawyer, assistant director of the McMath-Hulbert Observatory; John E. Willis, Naval Observatory, together with a photographer from the National Geographic Society and two radio engineers from the National Broadcasting Company.

The members of the expedition will sail from California by passenger steamers on April 27. With the extensive equipment aboard they will leave Honolulu on May 6 for the trip of 1,800 miles on the U. S. S. *Avocet*, a mine sweeper recently converted to a naval tender. Two of the Phoenix Islands, Enderbury and Canton, are available. The former is nearer the center of the shadow path with a duration of 4 mins. 8 secs., but the landing of the equipment may be difficult. If the landing is too difficult, Canton Island, where the duration is 29 secs. less, may be occupied. The 1937 eclipse has a maximum duration of totality of 17 mins. 4 secs., a longer observation than for any eclipse in 1,200 years. Unfortunately the location where the maximum occurs is 1,500 miles from any land.

The expedition will live in tents ashore. In erecting the instruments the astronomers will have the assistance of the officers and men of the naval vessel, which will stand by during the month of preparation. The equipment will be carried in a hundred cases weighing some ten tons.

The program will be a comprehensive one involving the following: (1) Times of contact observed visually and photographically; (2) photographs of the corona with various cameras and focal lengths up to 19 feet, with ordinary plates, with filters and in color (by three different processes); (3) photographs of the flash

spectrum with concave grating spectrographs used both with fixed and jumping films; (4) photographs of the coronal spectrum with various spectrographs, one using a Schmidt lens; (5) measurement of the total light of the corona; (6) measurement of the percentage of polarized light in the corona; (7) shadow bands.

In spite of distance and isolation, the National Broadcasting Company, over a nation-wide hook-up, will broadcast the progress of the expedition towards its destination, will describe the course of the preparations in the weeks ashore and on eclipse day will give very extended accounts of the observations as they are being carried out on June 8.

### SCIENCE ON THE RADIO

For two hours and fifteen minutes each week, the nation-wide radio networks carry seven programs of science. In the form of dialogues, dramatizations and talks, these sustaining programs are the result of co-operation between two networks and the several scientific or educational organizations. The networks contribute the time and the producing organizations prepare the programs and arrange for their presentation. Each of the talks is carried by a chain of about 30 to 60 stations and each brings forth a considerable amount of listener interest.

In addition to these programs on the networks, there are numerous programs of local stations which are devoted more or less regularly to science. Sometimes other network programs, such as those devoted to agriculture, include scientific material. Many broadcasts are given at the time of scientific meetings and on other special occasions.

A weekly talk on "Science News of the Week" is prepared in continuity form by Science Service and sent to local broadcasting stations, many of them connected with educational institutions, for reading by an announcer. Since this talk is used by about 50 stations, it is in effect a broadcast available to the whole nation.

The world wide short wave station W1XAL at Boston performs another sort of service in acting as a sort of scientific journal of the air. Each day at 4:55 P. M. EST, cosmic data ursigrams and scientific news furnished by Science Service and often astronomical and other news are broadcast on 11.79 megacycles.

The science programs regularly on nation-wide networks are listed below. Times given are Eastern Standard. CBS means Columbia Broadcasting System and NBC means National Broadcasting Company. Local stations carrying these programs can be determined by reference to programs in local newspapers.

#### TUESDAY AFTERNOON:

3:45 to 4:00 P.M.—*Have You Heard?*—Curious and interesting facts in natural science, presented

under the auspices of the Federal Office of Education. NBC Blue Network.

5:00 to 5:30 P.M.—*Your Health*.—Dramatized health broadcasts under auspices of the American Medical Association. NBC Blue Network.

5:15 to 5:30 P.M.—*Science Service Series*.—A leading scientist is interviewed each week by Watson Davis, director of Science Service. CBS Network.

6:00 to 6:15 P.M.—*Science in the News*.—Arranged by the University of Chicago Educational Council. NBC Red Network.

#### THURSDAY AFTERNOON:

2:00 to 2:15 P.M.—*Academy of Medicine*.—Medical programs, arranged by the New York Academy of Medicine. CBS Network.

#### SATURDAY AFTERNOON:

5:30 to 5:45 P.M.—*Drama of the Skies*.—Dr. Clyde Fisher, of the Hayden Planetarium, speaking on astronomical subjects. CBS Network.

#### SUNDAY MORNING:

11:30 to 12:00 A.M.—*The World is Yours*.—Dramatizations based on Smithsonian Institution activities, arranged by cooperation with the Federal Office of Education. NBC Red Network.

WATSON DAVIS

### PRESENTATION OF THE WILLIAM H. NICHOLS MEDAL TO DR. WHITMORE

DEAN FRANK C. WHITMORE, of the School of Chemistry and Physics of Pennsylvania State College, president-elect of the American Chemical Society, received on February 26 the William H. Nichols Gold Medal of the New York Section of the society, at a dinner given jointly by the section and the Society of Chemical Industry at the Hotel Pennsylvania.

More than 400 scientific men, representing many different fields of knowledge and investigation, united in honoring Dean Whitmore, who was awarded the medal for studies in "metallo-organic compounds, especially those of mercury, and in the field of aliphatic chemistry, particularly in molecular rearrangements and in the polymerization of olefins."

Dr. Walter S. Landis, vice-president of the American Cyanamid Company and chairman of the Nichols Medal Jury of Award, presented the medal, which was established in 1902 by the late Dr. William H. Nichols, a leader of the chemical industry and a charter member of the American Chemical Society, to "stimulate original research in chemistry." To insure perpetuation of the medal, a gift of securities was made recently to the New York Section by C. W. Nichols, chairman of the board of the Nichols Engineering and Research Corporation and son of William H. Nichols. Members of