

activity of various important groups of soil microbes as well as a microbial climax in the soil flora was suggested. Work on nitrification reported from the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station showed that the numbers of *Nitrosomonas* in the soil increased as a result of certain soil treatments. A report was given of studies conducted at the Colorado State College on non-symbiotic fixation of nitrogen in Colorado soils.

In the closing session, papers dealing with the physical characteristics of the soil and soil alkali were presented, including soil surveys conducted by the University of California in desert regions and a report of experiments carried on over a period of years at the Riverside Citrus Experiment Station on the problem of economical reclamation of alkali lands. The results of studies by the Colorado State College on soil from slick spots and on the effect of salts and dilution on soil reaction were reported.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: *President*, S. C. Vandecaveye, State College of Washington, Pullman; *Vice-President*, H. D. Chapman, Citrus Experiment Station, University of California, Riverside; *Secretary-Treasurer*, J. C. Martin, University of California, Berkeley.

A successful first summer meeting of the Society of American Foresters was held jointly with the association. Although not large, the attendance of foresters was representative. Members were present from the Allegheny, Appalachian, California, Central Rocky Mountain, Intermountain, Minnesota, New England, Washington and Wisconsin Sections. A notable feature of the sessions was the wide variety of topics discussed under the various programs and general sessions. Among the subjects available were those in botanical, zoological, social and economic sciences. Of particular interest to many of the foresters were the excellent symposia presented by the engineering and agriculture sections, particularly those having to do with watershed management, soil conservation and flood control.

At the dinner held on Tuesday evening forty-seven were present, R. E. McArdle, chairman of the Central

Rocky Mountain Section, acting as toastmaster. Among those contributing brief remarks were C. F. Korstian, Walter C. Lowdermilk, E. P. Meinecke, Joseph Kittredge, W. J. Morrill, Henry Schmitz, A. S. Peck and President H. H. Chapman.

On Wednesday a scheduled trip was made to the Pike National Forest to inspect thinning and utilization operations, reforestation projects and the Manitou Forest Experiment sub-station. Field trips were continued on Thursday and Friday for those wishing to study soil conservation projects and research projects and to visit the Northern Rocky Mountain National Park.

The officers and members of the Central Rocky Mountain Section acted as hosts with typical western hospitality. Nothing was left undone to contribute to the instruction and enjoyment of those in attendance.

ORGANIZATIONS RELATED TO THE ASSOCIATION AS A WHOLE

(Report from Frank E. E. Germann)

The American Association of University Professors met on Tuesday afternoon for the first regional meeting for Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. In competition with sectional meetings, several symposia and field trips, the attendance of about 100 was very gratifying and a real tribute to A. J. Carlson, president, who had made the trip to Denver especially to talk on the subject, "Some Common Problems before the American Colleges and the College Professors." Dr. Carlson made a vigorous attack on the present-day tendency of college administrators gradually to take over the control of universities in the matter of appointments and promotions without considering how this policy affects the general morale of the faculties.

Orin Tugman read a paper on "A Teacher Looks at Teaching," in which he examined the reasons why we choose to teach, developing the idea that teaching is concerned with the question of human relations, a field in which more science should be applied. Discussion was led by L. J. Davidson and William R. Arthur.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE SOUTH PACIFIC EXPEDITION OF THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES OF PHILADELPHIA

THE schooner *Cressida*, bearing members of the George Vanderbilt Expedition to the South Pacific for The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, returned to New York on July 18 with more than 20,000 natural history specimens of fish, reptiles, birds, mammals and plants.

Though it is difficult to estimate the results of the expedition at this time, it is expected that such a large collection from a portion of the Pacific which has been seldom visited by collectors will contain material of great scientific value. Special interest is centered in the fishes brought back, as one of the expedition's primary objectives was the assembling of a complete series of marlin, so that studies may be made of its distribution and breeding habits. It is hoped that

subsequent laboratory work will show a sequence of small fish in the collection that will range from about three quarters of an inch to one more than four feet in length.

Mr. Vanderbilt was accompanied on the expedition by Mrs. Vanderbilt and by Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Jones, of New York. Ronald W. Smith, of the academy, was in charge of collections, with Captain Bill Gray, of Palm Beach, who supervised the gathering of the marlin.

The *Cressida* left New York on January 13 and cleared the Panama Canal on February 1. Collections were made at the Pearl Islands, the seldom visited Malpelo Island and several islands of the Galapagos group. The next leg took the expedition on its long stretch across to the Marquesas, south to the Tuamotus and then to the Society Islands and Tahiti, reaching there during the second week in April. The *Cressida* then headed north, collecting at Tongareva, crossing the equator above Jarvis Island and stopping at other of the Line Island Group, Christmas, Fanning and Palmyra, on the way to Honolulu.

At the Hawaiian Islands, Mr. Vanderbilt pursued individual collecting work for fishes and sent the *Cressida* back to New York with its specimens for the academy.

REDUCED LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

THE request recently made to Governor Merriam by the regents of the University of California for a partial restoration of the budget of six years ago was denied, but when the facts were presented to the State Legislature a special appropriation of \$1,456,000 was unanimously approved to bring the resources of the university to the minimum amount needed to meet the demands being made upon it. Governor Merriam withheld approval of this appropriation until the last day of grace, July 2, and then cut it by \$455,000. As a result various curtailments in the work of the university have been made necessary.

In the great majority of cases it will be necessary to decrease the departmental budgets for equipment and routine expenses despite the fact that all are now embarrassed by four years of depression economy. The College of Chemistry and the College of Engineering have been compelled to seek gifts of equipment from many sources in order to maintain minimum teaching schedules.

Economies decided on include abandonment for the present of a longstanding problem of land utilization and range management on the foothills of the Sierra, intimately related to the general agricultural welfare of the state and strongly recommended by the California Agricultural Council; postponement of the request of the California Agricultural Council that more inten-

sive efforts be made to solve problems of insect pest control in the state's specialty nut, fruit and vegetable crops; curtailment of facilities for emergency studies of agricultural problems; and discontinuance of the annual agricultural crop outlook survey for the State of California after twelve years of developmental work, necessitated by financial inability to hold competent men in competition with other agencies. In the past three or four years the Agricultural Extension Service has lost six men, leaving only one economist on the staff. All told, thirteen key men in the College of Agriculture have left within the past several months because the deficient budget of the university was unable to hold them in the face of better offers from other points.

In the Medical School further postponement of the program of book purchases to overcome neglect of the last four years in the library will be necessary. This step is taken with regret, as the library has never been as complete as it should be, and due to the depression conditions of the last two bienniums it has slipped further behind in the acquisition of needed literature. It is also necessary to curtail the plan to develop a staff of trained men to cope with the rising tide of nervous and mental disorders.

In general, throughout the university, wherever possible, the replacement of staff resignations and retirements will be postponed and the policy of seeking the best men available for teaching posts must be curtailed in spite of the circumstance that nine of the most eminent professors have retired this year. No new programs of instruction, however important they may be, will be attempted.

THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

A BILL providing for a National Cancer Institute as a division of the United States Public Health Service has been signed by the President. An article on the establishment of the institute in the *Journal* of the American Medical Association gives the following particulars in regard to the organization.

The bill creates a National Cancer Advisory Council and enlarges the functions and resources of the Public Health Service with respect to the study and treatment of cancer. To house the proposed institute, the Secretary of the Treasury is empowered to acquire suitable land in or near the District of Columbia, and the appropriation of \$750,000 for the erection and equipment of buildings is authorized. An annual appropriation of \$700,000 is authorized for maintenance and operation. The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized also to accept gifts and bequests to further the work of the institute. These will not replace but will supplement the appropriations for the study of cancer of the Public Health Service and other agencies. Responsibility for conducting the institute