

PROFESSOR FERNANDO NEVERMANN, since 1909 professor of entomology at the National Agricultural School at San Jose, Costa Rica, was recently accidentally killed while searching for ants that had been damaging banana plants.

DR. CHARLES EDOUARD GUILLAUME, since 1915 di-

rector of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures in Paris, has died.

THE death is announced of Dr. Hugo Hergesell, professor of geophysics and meteorology; of Dr. Walther Vogel, professor of historical geology, and of Dr. Konrad Theodor Preuss, director of the Museum of Folk Lore, all of Berlin.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE POULTRY RESEARCH LABORATORY AT EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN

CONSTRUCTION of the regional poultry research laboratory at East Lansing, Mich., is expected to be under way by August 1, according to a report issued by Dr. J. R. Mohler, chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The contract calls for the construction of a central laboratory building, two large brooder houses and two smaller buildings for special disease studies. The buildings should be completed by January 1, 1939. The unit will be located on a site of 50 acres recently deeded to the government by Michigan State College for this purpose. The site is one mile south of the college.

Twenty-five north central and northeastern states will cooperate with the department in the laboratory work. The states are Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and West Virginia.

Selection of a director and other staff members will be made through a regularly announced Civil Service examination. As soon as the buildings are completed, work will begin on the development of effective control methods for fowl paralysis, a disease that is prevalent on both commercial poultry farms and diversified farms. It is estimated that losses from poultry diseases cost producers nearly a hundred million dollars annually in the states cooperating in the research. Approximately half this amount, it is estimated, is due to fowl paralysis.

Dr. Mohler points out that there is no adequate knowledge concerning fowl paralysis, and no effective means are known for its control. Laboratory workers will concentrate on a search for the causative agent and will attempt to determine to what extent breeding for resistance to the disease can be successful. Related projects dealing with the effects of parasitism nutrition practices and different management practices on the spread of disease will be undertaken as rapidly as possible.

THE AVERY EXPEDITIONS OF THE FIELD MUSEUM

THROUGH the generosity of Sewell Avery, a trustee of Field Museum, funds have been provided for sending four expeditions into the field during 1938.

The first of these left Chicago on June 18 to collect specimens for use in physical geology exhibits. Work is under way in northern Colorado, and later activities will be transferred to New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and possibly other eastern states. This expedition is being conducted by Sharat K. Roy, curator of geology, and is a continuance of the field work of this type in which he was engaged last year.

On July 15, John R. Millar, curator of the N. W. Harris Public School Extension, left for Nova Scotia, where he will make studies and collect material for the department of botany (of whose staff he was formerly a member). The prime object is material for an exhibit representing the submerged vegetation of the northern Atlantic waters. Owing to the extreme tidal conditions prevailing in the Bay of Fundy, where the difference between high and low water levels reaches as much as fifty feet, it is expected that this will prove to be an exceptionally favorable locality for collecting kelps and other marine plants.

Early in September, Emmet R. Blake, assistant curator of birds, will sail for British Guiana. At Georgetown he will charter an airplane to take him and two native assistants 600 miles inland to the headwaters of the Corentyne River, on the southernmost boundary of the country, close to the frontiers of Dutch Guiana and northern Brazil. This region, entirely uninhabited by human beings, is almost totally inaccessible except by air. At certain seasons it may be reached by river travel with special boats manned by large crews. The water trip, however, requires about five weeks, whereas by airplane it may be made in four hours. The area has never been worked before from a biological standpoint, and Mr. Blake will seek a representative collection of its vertebrates, including birds, mammals, reptiles and fishes. The airplane will return to its coastal base leaving Mr. Blake entirely out of contact with the outside world for about four