

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE HENRY G. LAPHAM FIJIAN EXPEDITION

On June 27 Dr. C. M. Cooke, Jr., leader and malacologist, Mr. Y. Kondo, assistant malacologist, and Mr. Elwood C. Zimmerman, entomologist, Bishop Museum scientists, departed from Honolulu aboard the S. S. *Monterey* for Suva, Fiji, to collect mollusks and insects for the museum. The duration of the trip was three months.

The expedition was named for Mr. Henry G. Lapham, of Boston, in appreciation of his interest and financial assistance to the museum's program of exploration in the Pacific. Dr. C. M. Cooke, Jr., also gave generously to the fund and personally financed exploration in Lau Province. Without the aid of these two men it would have been impossible for the staff to have made the trip. The museum is greatly indebted to them.

Because of illness at home Dr. Cooke was recalled to Honolulu after three weeks in the field. Mr. Zimmerman assumed the post of acting leader and with Mr. Kondo and Jacob Ulumira, a Fijian assistant, continued exploration, following closely the itinerary made up at the beginning of the expedition.

During the course of the expedition collections were made in the following areas: first, Ovalau island; second, Viti Levu, the largest island of Fiji, upon which exploration was done in the Rewa, Serua and Tholo north districts; and third, in Lau Province, or the eastern Fijian islands, where Munia, Vanua Mbalavu, Mango, Lakemba, Oneata, Naiau and Moala islands were visited. Approximately sixty islands were seen and notes were taken on the appearance and, where they were viewed closely enough, the extent of the forests upon them.

The expedition was principally one of reconnaissance. It was a preliminary survey of the region, and one of its main purposes was to determine the best type of exploration for this area and the places where intensive field work should be done when funds are available for future expeditions. As a result of the experience gained in this exploration it will be much easier for the staff to plan future Fijian expeditions.

The staff returned from the field on September 28 with outstanding success and comprehensive collections. It is estimated that the entomologist procured approximately twenty-five thousand specimens; the number of land shells taken has not yet been ascertained, but a splendid cross section of the fauna was obtained by concentrated work. In entomology and malacology many "lost species" were rediscovered which evidently had not been collected since the types were taken. The museum's collections of Fijian land shells and insects is now second to none in numbers

and comprehensiveness. Many new species of land shells were collected, and the number of new species of insects obtained must be counted by hundreds. The success of the expedition will not be truly known until the material has been prepared, specimens studied by specialists, data sifted, and the results published. These accomplishments will not be realized for many years because of the bulk of the material.

During most of the trip the scientists were fortunate in having favorable weather, but, as is to be expected in that region, a number of collecting days were lost because of unpropitious weather. The expedition was planned for the "dry season" in order to facilitate field work, but, as the drier season comes in the winter, the entomologist found that, with few exceptions, the summer insects, such as many Lepidoptera, buprestid and elaterid beetles and many others, were in the nymphal, larval or pupal stages, and adults were either rare or entirely unobtainable. The season evidently had no effect on land shell collecting.

ELWOOD C. ZIMMERMAN

THE WORK OF THE COMMONWEALTH FUND

THE twentieth annual report of the Commonwealth Fund, which was established as a foundation "to do something for the welfare of mankind," during the year appropriated \$2,277,953 for philanthropic purposes. More than four fifths of this amount was devoted to the promotion of physical and mental health, much the larger share going to medical education, medical research, public health and community hospitals in rural areas. Both the total appropriations and the percentage set apart for health purposes were the largest in the history of the fund, the endowment having been increased in 1937 to approximately \$50,000,000.

Expressing his conviction that "some of the most important things that can not be done without money can not be done with money alone," the general director of the fund reported that in encouraging services to prevent disease and promote health, the fund "has demonstrated repeatedly that money will not create or maintain such services at optimum levels unless a great deal more than money is put into them. He writes:

Foundations have learned that to spend money effectively for social ends it is necessary to invest judgment and technical skill, in generous quantity, in the choice of projects to be aided and in the evaluation of their results as a guide to further choices. They are fortunate in being able to focus relatively large amounts of technical skill on the study and sometimes the shaping of relatively small projects. They are particularly justified in doing so when the projects in question throw light on the