

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

methods which must be used in attacking similar situations on a broader scale. What foundations have learned about the technique of making money work to buy health and other means of social progress may be useful in an era of great public spending.

STANDARDS FOR PHOTOGRAPHY

A START in the establishment of national standards for photography was taken on February 21 by a new committee, which met in the Engineering Societies Building, New York, and elected as its chairman Dr. Loyd A. Jones, of the Eastman Kodak Company. The committee was organized by the American Standards Association with the Optical Society of America taking the leadership in the technical work. Better interchangeability of parts and standards defining the performance of cameras, light meters, film, developing materials and photographic equipment is expected to result from work of this committee.

At the meeting plans were made to set up sub-committees which will cover physical dimensions of sensitive materials and holders; characteristics of sensitive materials; the finished photographic product; cameras, lenses, shutters, diaphragms, view finders, sizes and amounts of light filters, and dimensions of safe-lights; artificial illuminants; processing equipment, and projectors and printers.

The work of this committee is expected not only to result in national standards, but will also be the basis for American recommendations in connection with international standards for photography. An international committee on photography has already been authorized by the International Standards Association, with the American Standards Association, which holds the secretariat, taking the leadership in its work. The committee is also planning to work closely with the International Congress of Scientific and Applied Photography. The committee set March 24 as the date of its next meeting.

STUDENT AFFILIATE CHAPTERS OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

STUDENT affiliate chapters of the American Chemical Society have been organized in sixteen colleges and universities. The society will hold its ninety-seventh meeting in Baltimore from April 3 to 7.

Membership in the chapters reaches 427, while another 145 affiliated undergraduates are scattered throughout twenty-three institutions in the United States and Hawaii. The total number of 572 comprises 181 seniors, 178 juniors, 148 sophomores, 58 freshmen and 7 special students.

Dr. Charles L. Parsons, secretary of the society, points out that it is evident that this newly organized method of procedure for interesting students in their own advancement is to become an important function

bearing upon the development of the students in their professional consciousness.

The first group of student affiliates was formed at Lafayette College, under the auspices of the Lehigh Valley Section of the society. Other chapters have been established in Manhattan College, New York City; Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; Union College, Schenectady, N. Y.; Rhode Island State College; Albright College, Pennsylvania; Virginia Polytechnic Institute; the University of Kentucky; the Rice Institute; Ohio Northern University; Central College, Missouri; the University of Minnesota; Hamline University; Colorado State College; the University of California, Berkeley, and the California Institute of Technology.

The Rice Institute Chapter, with 63 members, is the largest. The University of Kentucky and the University of California Chapters rank second and third with 52 and 51 members, respectively. Next come the California Institute of Technology, with 38 members, and Lafayette College, with 34 members.

Dr. John H. Nair, of the Borden Company, Syracuse, N. Y., is chairman of the Committee on Student Affiliates, which has supervised the organization of the student chapters, all of which are planning active programs in 1939. The society will sponsor an employment clearing house at the Baltimore convention, where student chemists will have an opportunity of meeting the personnel staffs of chemical industries. The announcement points out that "Personal contact is becoming more and more a prerequisite for employment. It will be a long time before employers cease going first to the colleges, especially those known to turn out the best trained chemists. This is particularly true for young men just out of college, since no one but the chemical departments of the colleges which they are leaving are able to give them any definite recommendation."

THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

THE Geological Society of America announces meetings for 1939 as follows:

The Geological Society will join with Section E of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in the summer meetings to be held in Milwaukee, from June 19 to 24. Plans for field trips are being made. Details of the scientific program and excursions will be announced in a later circular.

The council has authorized a joint meeting of the society with the Cordilleran Section, to be held at Berkeley, Calif., from August 8 to 10, followed by several field excursions. Fellows of the society are urged to take advantage of this opportunity and to lend encouragement by attending this meeting of the only section. Special facilities will be provided for visiting features of particular interest under the guidance of