

This exchange of visits was welcomed by the Royal Society, which, since its foundation in 1662, has always sought to maintain, irrespective of race or politics, the liveliest interest in the work of men of science throughout the world. Consequently, arrangements were made for two fellows of the society, Professor F. G. Donnan, emeritus professor of chemistry in the University of London, and Professor A. J. Clark, professor of materia medica in the University of Edinburgh, to visit Germany in March; at the express wish of the Kaiser Wilhelm Gesellschaft for a lecture on a non-scientific subject, Professor Dover Wilson, the eminent Shakespearean scholar, was invited by the Royal Society to visit Berlin to lecture. The visits, which took place in March and April, were highly successful. The visitors were most hospitably entertained by their German colleagues and were afforded facilities for visiting laboratories and research institutes.

The Royal Society is entertaining during this month four German men of science. They are Freiherr von Verschuer, of the University of Frankfurt-on-Main; Professor R. Kuhn, of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institut für Medizinische Forschung, Heidelberg; Professor F. Wever, of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institut für Eisensforschung Forschung, Düsseldorf, and Professor Otto Hahn, of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institut für Chemie, Berlin-Dahlem. Freiherr von Verschuer and Professor Kuhn delivered lectures before the Royal Society on June 8 and 9, respectively; Professor Wever spoke on June 22 on metallurgical research, and Professor Hahn spoke at the Royal Institution on June 23 on the fission of uranium nuclei by neutrons.—*Nature*.

SURVEY OF THE GEOLOGY OF THE CENTRAL ANDES IN PERU

DR. J. V. HARRISON, university demonstrator and lecturer in the department of geology at the University of Oxford, who is leading an expedition to Peru, is reported by a correspondent of the London *Times* to have sailed from Liverpool on June 17, to study and map the geology of a part of the Central Andes of Peru in the region between Canta, Huauca and Huancayo. Dr. Harrison, who was in the same part of Peru in 1925, is accompanied by J. D. Weir, of University College, London, and Saskatoon University, who is a Rhodes scholar and a Burdett-Coutts scholar and who is working in the department of geology; C. H. Kearny, of the Queen's College, who is a Rhodes scholar from Princeton, and M. H. Donald, of Mealsgate, Cumberland, who has previously collected for the British Museum.

The expedition will collect fossils and specimens of rocks from the region for the British Museum (Natural History). Its plans have been approved by the Royal Geographical Society. The area to be mapped is part of an equilateral triangle, the apices of which

are Tarma, Cerro de Pasco and Canta, with the center of the triangle roughly 80 miles northeast of Lima.

How much will be achieved depends entirely upon the weather, which in August and September can not be relied on. The altitudes range from 15,000 feet to 18,000 feet, and the region is subject to violent storms during the break-up of the settled July (winter) weather. Much of the time will be spent under canvas, and the expedition will rely on mule transport, with native muleteers.

Mr. Weir was with survey parties of the Canadian Geological Survey in two successive summers before he went to Oxford, and he has this year been awarded a third part of the Daniel Pidgeon Fund by the Geological Society. The first recipient of this award, in 1908, was the present professor of geology at Oxford, Professor James A. Douglas, who himself did much of his early field work in Peru and is an authority on the geology of that country.

Mr. Kearny, who collected archeological material in northwestern Mexico for a year before going to Oxford, will join the party at Lima. The expedition will return in October.

THE MAGELLANIC EXPEDITION OF THE FIELD MUSEUM

THE "Magellanic Expedition" of Field Museum of Natural History, sponsored by Stanley Field, president of the museum, which will largely retrace in the farthest reaches of South America the steps of the early Spanish explorer for which it is named, planned to sail from New York for Lima, Peru, during the first week in July. Those sailing include Karl P. Schmidt, curator of amphibians and reptiles, his son, John Schmidt, field assistant, and Colin C. Sanborn, curator of mammals. They will be joined, probably in September, by Dr. Wilfred H. Osgood, chief of the department of zoology.

The expedition will attempt to complete the fragmentary knowledge of the fauna of the southern half of South America. All classes of animals will be sought—mammals, birds, reptiles, fishes, insects, marine invertebrates, etc. It is planned to explore the shores of the Straits of Magellan and the Island of Tierra del Fuego to the extreme southern tip of the continent.

Upon arrival in Lima, Mr. Schmidt and his companions will cross southern Peru by rail to Arequipa and Lake Titicaca, where collecting will begin. Crossing the lake by steamer, collections will be made in Bolivia. Further penetration into the interior of South America will be made variously by airplane, rail, boat, pack animals and afoot. After the arrival of Dr. Osgood the expedition will proceed through Chile down to the southernmost tip of the continent. It is in the region of the Straits of Magellan and Tierra

del Fuego that it is expected the most important research will be conducted.

Dr. Osgood has made the following statement:

This region has not been scientifically explored by zoologists for more than one hundred years. In 1834, Darwin collected in this region, during the famous cruise of the *Beagle*. Since that time it has been neglected. Although Darwin made excellent collections of the fauna, which are still preserved in the British Museum, there are many gaps which remain to be filled in available knowledge of the natural history of the region. The Darwin collections are not satisfactory from to-day's standards because, naturally, facilities and techniques for the collecting and preservation of specimens had not been developed in his time to the point since achieved. On the Field Museum expedition it is expected that data will be obtained which will make possible the completion and revision of present knowledge based on the Darwin collections. It may be confidently expected further that we shall obtain examples of many species of animals still unknown or hitherto unrepresented in any collections.

Although the expedition will be concerned primarily with assembling specimens for research collections of the museum, specimens will be sought also for addition to the public exhibits and for one or two habitat groups showing animals in scenes reproducing their natural environments.

A FISHERIES BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY ON THE GULF COAST

THE need has long been felt for an adequate marine biological laboratory on the Gulf Coast. To achieve this end the Bureau of Fisheries took possession of the abandoned Pensacola, Florida, Quarantine Station in September, 1937. Since that time, with the aid of grants from the Public Works and Works Progress Administrations, much has been accomplished toward enlarging existing facilities and adapting them to the needs of biological research. While the program of construction is not yet completed it is sufficiently far advanced to merit a statement of the facilities which will soon be available for biological research related to fisheries.

The station is located on a ballast rock island of 14 acres about seven miles from Pensacola. The island is about a half mile from the highway, but construction of a bridge and road to the station is under way. The location is one of the most favorable on the Gulf Coast, for it is relatively central and the marine fauna and flora are characteristic of the coast as a whole. The island is in Santa Rosa Sound, protected from storm damage by the 45-mile long Santa Rosa Island. The water of the sound is almost always clear and of a salinity generally ranging from 20 to 25 parts per 1,000 save in times of extreme precipitation, when it may fall to about 15 p.p. 1,000. Within a few miles

are various bays, bayous and rivers offering any type of marine habitat. The gulf beach, where the water is always remarkably clear, is only a mile away. In the immediate vicinity an extensive fishery is carried on for red snapper, grouper, mackerel, mullet, flounder, pompano, shrimp, oysters and crabs. Within a mile of the laboratory one may find any type of bottom from firm sand to soft mud. The island itself, consisting of ballast rock, attracts a wide variety of marine life.

The laboratory building has been considerably enlarged and consists of the following rooms: a general research room 23 feet wide by 45 feet long, five private research rooms, a chemical research room, a dark room for experimental and photographic purposes, a stock room, an office, a large library and reading room, and a specimen room or museum 34 feet wide by 60 feet long. Running salt water will be provided wherever required. On the grounds are two concrete experimental tanks 15 by 30 by 5 feet deep, and two 10 by 20 feet by 5 deep. These will be supplied with running seawater.

Accommodations for a limited number of investigators are provided in a dormitory building which consists of five 2-bed rooms, a bath, a kitchen and a large combination dining and living room. In addition there is a large room, which will accommodate four beds, and a separate bath. Also on the island are a work shop, boat house and residence buildings for the accommodation of the regular staff. Two motor boats and several skiffs with outboard motors are available.

Those interested in obtaining further information may address the director, Dr. A. E. Hopkins, Bureau of Fisheries, P. O. Box 1456, Pensacola, Fla.

AWARDS OF THE AMERICAN GEO- GRAPHICAL SOCIETY

THE American Geographical Society of New York has announced the award of the Cullum Geographical Medal for 1938 to Emmanuel de Martonne, professor of geography at the University of Paris. The Charles P. Daly Medal for 1939 has been awarded to Herbert John Fleure, professor of geography at the University of Manchester, and the David Livingstone Centenary Medal for 1939 has been awarded to John R. Rymill in recognition of his scientific achievement and exploration in the southern hemisphere. Presentations of the medals will be made later in the year.

Professor de Martonne's special field is physical geography, a subject on which he has written many volumes, including "Europe Centrale" and the standard manual "Traité de géographie physique." He is president of the International Geographical Union and is one of the editors of the *Annales de Géographie*. In 1916-17 he was visiting professor at Columbia Univer-