

ance with his training and inclinations, Dr. Tinney in his later work developed a keen insight into the applied aspects of his studies. Quiet and unassuming, he was highly respected by his fellow workers and many friends, who recognized in him the qualities of substantial leadership among the younger group of American scientists.

CORRESPONDENT

HENRY CLINTON FALL

Most people are not aware that the fauna of the United States is still very imperfectly known. Among the insects, in particular, new species can still be found in great numbers, and of most of those which have been described, little or nothing is known of their life history and habits. There is thus an immense task before us, to culminate eventually in a work of many volumes, describing the life of this continent in all its details. Such a work can never be really complete, but it might be as nearly so as existing treatments of the fauna of the British Islands or Central Europe. There is no organized effort to reach such ends, but many workers are dealing successfully with particular groups of animals, defining families, genera and species, arranging them according to their apparent natural affinities. During the past forty-five years, the name of Fall has been well known to all those concerned with American beetles. Henry Clinton Fall was born at Farmington, N. H., in 1862, and died at Tyngsboro, Mass., on November 14, 1939. He graduated from Dartmouth College with the degrees B.S. and Sc.D., the latter honorary. When I first knew him he was resident in Pasadena, Calif., happy in the extraordinary opportunities for the study of Coleoptera which he found in the arid southwest. He had been interested in the subject for fifteen years

before he began to publish, but once he began to record his observations he soon became a prolific writer, especially known for his excellent revisions of various groups and important faunal papers, such as those dealing with Southern California, with New Mexico and Alaska. He described over 1,400 new species of beetles, and had one of the finest collections extant. All this was done in his so-called leisure time; he earned his living by high-school teaching. His entire collection goes to the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University.

T. D. A. COCKERELL

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

RECENT DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. CHARLES ZELENY, research professor of zoology, who had been a member of the faculty of the University of Illinois since 1909, died on December 21 at the age of sixty-one years.

FERDINAND AUGUSTUS SILCOX, chief of the U. S. Forestry Service, died on December 20. He was fifty-seven years old.

DR. HUGH KELSEA MOORE, for thirty years before his retirement in 1934 chief chemical engineer of the Brown Company, Berlin, N. H., died on December 18 at the age of sixty-seven years.

THE College of Medicine of the State University of Iowa has received a gift of \$5,000 from Mrs. Edith Graham Mayo, of Rochester, Minn., in the name of herself and the late Dr. Charles H. Mayo for the establishment of a memorial to their son, the late Dr. Joseph Graham Mayo. The fund is for the support of a lectureship or research scholarship. Dr. Joseph Mayo was a graduate of the Iowa College of Medicine in 1927, who died in 1936.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE STATUS OF THE ENGINEERING PROFESSION

THE Engineers' Council for Professional Development, a joint cooperative body of seven engineering organizations, through its 1938-1939 Committee on Engineering Schools, of which Dr. Karl T. Compton, president of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was chairman, has issued a list for 1939 containing 525 accredited undergraduate engineering curricula leading to degrees in 118 colleges and universities in the United States.

Since the inauguration of the accrediting program in 1935, the committee through its committees on inspection has appraised the various curricula in each school separately, considering such factors as qualifications of the faculty, standards of instruction, scholastic work of the students, records of the graduates,

attitudes of the administration, as well as physical facilities, finances, requirements and size of staff and student body. According to Dr. Compton's report,

while the committee has adhered rigidly to the policy that it should set no fixed standards for use as yardsticks in measuring the quality of engineering instruction, one principle however has been insisted upon, namely, that if any curriculum omits some portion of a subject in which the engineers in that field are expected by the public to have competence, then under such conditions the committee insists, as a necessary safeguard to the public, that the curriculum be not accredited. . . . However, it aims to preserve the independence of action of individual institutions and to promote thereby the general advancement of engineering education.

Besides Dr. Compton, other members of the Committee on Engineering Schools included: H. P. Ham-

mond, dean of engineering, the Pennsylvania State College, *vice-chairman*, representing the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education; G. M. Butler, dean of engineering, University of Arizona, representing American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers; Ivan C. Crawford, dean of engineering, University of Kansas, representing the American Society of Civil Engineers; P. H. Daggett, dean of engineering, Rutgers University, representing the National Council of State Boards of Engineering Examiners; A. B. Newman, College of the City of New York, representing the American Institute of Chemical Engineers; A. A. Potter, dean of engineering, Purdue University, representing the American Society of Mechanical Engineers; D. B. Prentice, president of the Rose Polytechnic Institute, and J. R. Killian, Jr. of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dean Potter has been chosen chairman of the 1939-40 committee. J. W. Barker, dean of engineering, Columbia University, succeeds Dean Hammond on the committee and E. L. Moreland, dean of engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, replaces Dr. Compton. President R. E. Doherty, of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, succeeds Dean Daggett on the committee.

THE FRANCIS AMORY SEPTENNIAL PRIZE OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

IN compliance with the provisions of the will of the late Francis Amory, The American Academy of Arts and Sciences, as trustee of a fund given by the testator, announces a prize to be known as "The Francis Amory Septennial Prize" to be awarded for conspicuously meritorious work performed during the immediately preceding septennial period, "through experiment, study or otherwise, in the treatment and cure of diseases and derangement of the human sexual generative organs in general, and more especially for the cure, prevention or relief of the retention of urine, cystitis, prostatitis, etc." While the donor wished especially to reward the discovery of any new method of treatment, he expressly authorized that the prize might be given to any author who might have contributed any theoretical or practical treatise of extraordinary or exceptional value and merit on the anatomy of said organs or the treatment of their diseases.

If there shall appear work of a quality to warrant it, the first award will be made in 1940. The total amount will exceed \$10,000, which may be divided at the discretion of the academy among several nominees. While formal nominations are not expected and no essays or treatises in direct competition for the prize are desired, the committee invites suggestions looking toward the wise performance of their duty. Communications on this subject should reach the committee not later than

May 15, 1940, and should be addressed in care of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 28 Newbury Street, Boston, Mass., U. S. A. The members of the committee on the Francis Amory Septennial Prize are: Dr. Roger I. Lee, *chairman*; Dr. Walter B. Cannon, Dr. David Cheever, Professor Leigh Hoadley, Dr. William C. Quinby, Dr. E. E. Tyzzer and Dr. Soma Weiss, secretary.

A ZOOLOGICAL EXPEDITION OF THE FIELD MUSEUM

A ZOOLOGICAL expedition of the Field Museum of Natural History, sponsored and personally led by Leon Mandel, of Chicago, will sail from Havana in January on Mr. Mandel's yacht *Buccaneer* for a cruise to out-of-the-way cays, islands and rocks in the Caribbean Sea. Birds, mammals and reptiles will be collected, and fishes and other marine creatures will be sought in the surrounding waters. The scientific staff of the expedition plans also to make ecological studies of several species in the exotic fauna of the tropic American region to be visited. This is the fourth expedition Mr. Mandel has conducted for the museum. Rudyerd Boulton, curator of birds, and D. Dwight Davis, assistant curator of anatomy and osteology, who will accompany the expedition, have left for Havana. Mr. Mandel will also take an active part in the collecting, and another collector will be Captain William Gray, of Palm Beach. Mr. Boulton will concentrate his efforts chiefly on birds, and Mr. Davis will specialize in reptiles. Both will also seek desirable specimens of mammals and of oceanographic material, and will assist Mr. Mandel and Captain Gray in the collecting of fishes. Other members of the party include Mrs. Mandel and her mother, Senora Elvira Panerai.

Included in the itinerary are such places as Swan Island, a small possession of the United States; the Bay Islands, which belong to the republic of Honduras; Glover's Reef, Half Moon Cay, Turneffe Cay, Chinchorro Bank, Cozumel Island, Holbox Island and the Triangles—three large rocks in the Gulf of Mexico. The ship will also call at the Mexican port of Progreso, at which time a trip inland will be made to Yucatan's famous Maya archeological site at Chichen Itza. The expedition is expected to complete its work and return to Havana about the middle of February.

Among the objectives of the expedition is the collection of various specimens needed for a new hall of fishes in preparation at the museum. Efforts will be made to harpoon a large devilfish, a species of ray known as manta, which has a fin spread of twelve feet or more in fully developed individuals. An especially equipped fishing launch will be used for work in waters not navigable by the larger vessel. Two-way radio-telephone communication will be maintained be-