of the species now living in Africa and Asia; various kinds of cats, especially the sabre-toothed tiger; and the remains of *Entelodon,* whose nearest living relative is the pig. In deposits of far more recent times, above these fossil beds, have been found interesting evidences that ancient Indians once occupied this same region. Mr. Bird will carry on excavations in an effort to discover more about their culture. Chalcedony tools, such as scrapers and knives, have already been found, as well as pieces of black pottery. The expedition will be in the field until November 1.

Dr. Barnum Brown, curator of fossil reptiles, left New York on August 3 to lead the American Museum-Sinclair Expedition of 1940 into the Big Bend region of southern Texas, near Marathon. The expedition will excavate remains of the largest dinosaurs yet found. These bones were discovered last summer by Dr. Erich Schlaikjer, during a reconnaissance expedition for the museum. Dr. Schlaikjer and Roland T. Bird, preparator in paleontology, will join Dr. Brown in Marathon to assist in digging the bones out of the rock and preparing them for shipment.

Dr. Grace Fisher Ramsey, associate curator of the department of education, left New York on August 8, to conduct a study of the lives and work of Indian artist craftsmen in Mexico. She will also make color motion pictures of life in Mexican villages and collect materials which can be circulated from the department of education among schools and other institutions. These collections will be representative of the native crafts of the Mexicans of central, southwestern and southeastern Mexico and will include types of weaving in wool, cotton and various plant fibers; embroidery, drawnwork and beading; pottery to show regional designs; all types of metal crafts in silver, copper and tin; leather and lacquer work; masks, musical instruments and toys. Dr. Ramsey will be accompanied on the journey by Herman Sievers, staff assistant in education, Mrs. Sievers and Miss Ethel Fisher. Almost the entire trip will be made by automobile. The expedition will return to New York in the latter part of September.

Theodore A. McGraw, of Grosse Pointe, Mich., will lead an expedition in the Wrangel Mountains of Alaska. He will be accompanied by T. Donald Carter, assistant curator of mammals, who left New York on August 1. The purpose of the trip is to make a general collection of the mammals in this region, ranging from mice to grizzly bears, for the study collections. Work will continue until the first snowfall, and Mr. McGraw and Mr. Carter expect to return by the first part of October.

Dr. John E. Hill, assistant curator of mammalogy, is now making collections of small mammals in the southern part of Kansas. This work is of interest to the museum as part of its survey of animal life in the dust-bowl section; to determine what animals have been exterminated or driven out by drought and changing vegetation and those animals still remaining, which have survived these changes. Mrs. Hill and Peter Crow, of Cornell University, are assisting Dr. Hill. The expedition will be in the field until the middle of September.

THE NEW YORK ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

AT a special meeting on June 25 of the Board of Trustees of the New York Zoological Society, Fairfield Osborn was elected president to succeed W. Redmond Cross, who resigned in June. Mr. Cross had been president of the garden and chairman of the executive committee since 1937. Laurance S. Rockefeller was elected chairman of the executive committee, Mr. Cross remaining as chairman of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Rockefeller was also elected second vice-president of the board. The position of secretary, left vacant by Mr. Osborn's election to the presidency, will be filled later.

In a statement made by Mr. Osborn he said in part:

> The institutions operated by this society are visited annually by an immense public, equivalent numerically—not allowing for repeat visitors—to approximately four per cent. of the total population of the entire nation. This fact is more than a call for continuance as we are now; it is a direct challenge to us constantly to broaden and vitalize our contacts with the public. These contacts call for creation of advanced methods of exhibiting our unrivaled living collections, for highly efficient park and building administration, for advancing our education and conservation activities, and, back of the scenes, for pressing forward with research work in the laboratories at the Zoological Park and the Aquarium, this work, in many of its phases, contributing directly to the solution of human disease problems.

In regard to the activities of the society, it is announced that a contract has been let for construction of the African Plains exhibit in the Zoological Park—work on which was started on July 22. This development has been made possible by a member of the society who wishes to remain anonymous. Plans have been drawn for a new aquarium; important new exhibition units are in plan or at the point of construction for the aquarium in its present building, and the program of research, including phases of it bearing on human health problems, is now more active than at any time since the society was formed.

Some time ago the Rockefeller Foundation made a grant to the Zoological Society for the study of methods of production of films on zoology and allied subjects. It is hoped that this study will lead to the actual production of films. One script, on the life cycle of the eel, has already been prepared; three

others are in preparation, on bird migration, the continental distribution of animals, and adaptation of form to movement.

With the advantage of its background, its great collection of wild animals, its scientific staff, its laboratories and its technical publication, the trustees plan to expand the scientific work of the society.

The retirement of Dr. W. Reid Blair as director of the Zoological Park on May 1 left a vacancy which was filled temporarily, at a meeting of the Board of Trustees on July 15, by the appointment of H. R. Mitchell as acting director. As already announced in SCIENCE, Allyn R. Jennings, general superintendent of the Park Department, was appointed general director of the Zoological Park and the Aquarium, and Harry Sweeny, Jr., director of parks in Queens and Manhattan, was appointed assistant general director.

Under the new form of management, Mr. Jennings will have general charge of operations both at the Zoological Park and the Aquarium. Dr. Charles M. Breder, Jr., continues as director of the aquarium but will be freed to a considerable degree of administrative duties, giving him more time to spend on scientific work.

SYMPOSIUM ON NEW TEXTILES OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

A SYMPOSIUM on "New Textile Fibers, Fabrics and Finishes" will be held in connection with the hundredth meeting of the American Chemical Society in Detroit, September 9 to 13. Dr. Gustavus J. Esselen, president of Gustavus J. Esselen, Inc., Boston, has been appointed chairman of the symposium, sponsored by the Division of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry. Ten authorities in the field will deliver addresses.

Kenneth H. Barnard, of the Pacific Mills Print Works, Lawrence, Mass., will describe recent progress in textiles in New England. Pointing out that chemistry was largely responsible for taking the textile industry out of New England and transplanting it in the South, he will report how research, new uses, faster colors and modern finishes for textiles are overcoming the economic handicaps of the Northeastern region.

Robert Boyer, of the Ford Motor Company, will discuss "The Experimental Production of Fibers from Soybean Proteins." Dr. F. Bonnet, director of textile research and the standards laboratory of the American Viscose Corporation, will describe "vinyon," a copolymerized vinyl resin made of vinyl chloride and vinyl acetate. Vinyon yarn, largely utilized in industrial filter cloth, will invite many other uses because of its remarkable properties, including resistance to strong acids and alkalis at ordinary temperatures. It is asserted to be practically water-repellant and as strong when wet as when dry.

Dr. G. P. Hoff, director of nylon research of E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, will speak on "Nylon as a Textile Fiber." Dr. Games Slayter, of the Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corporation, will outline in what ways fiberglas, a new basic raw material, is being employed.

Dr. D. H. Powers, of the Röhm and Haas Company, Philadelphia, will show how synthetic resins for textile fabric modification improve the tensile strength, resilience, durability, luster and firmness of the fabrics without altering surface appearance, imparting to vegetable fibers many of the properties of animal fibers.

The forms, properties and uses of the cellulose acetate rayons will be the topic of Dr. Harold DeWitt Smith, of A. M. Tenney Associates, New York. Acetate rayons, according to Dr. Smith, account for approximately 30 per cent. of the total rayon production.

F. C. Atwood, of Atlantic Research Associates, Newtonville, Mass., will read a paper on "Protein Fibers." Electrocoated pile fabrics will be described by N. E. Oglesby and L. E. Hoogstoel, of the Behr-Manning Corporation, Troy, N. Y. To date, two types—dress goods and all-over covered pile material for upholstery—of textile products employing the electrostatic process are being manufactured commercially. The distinctive feature of a pile fabric manufactured by the electrostatic process is the density of pile attainable. This density is reflected in the wearing properties of the product.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

BEGINNING in September, each of the seventy-one local sections of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in the principal industrial areas of the nation will sponsor several local meetings on the engineering problems of national defense and invite those present to make recommendations for their solution.

The parent society is planning a series of national regional meetings which will bring together the outstanding engineers and manufacturing executives of the country to discuss the engineering phases of the various elements of defense. It has announced the following dates and places for these meetings:

September 3 to 6, 1940—Fall meeting, Hotel Davenport, Spokane.

November 7 to 9, 1940—Joint American Society of Mechanical Engineers-American Institute of Mechanical Engineers meeting on fuels, Hotel Tutwiler, Birmingham.

December 2 to 5, 1940—Sixty-first annual meeting, Hotel Astor, New York.

April 1 to 3, 1941—Spring meeting, Atlanta.

June 16 to 20, 1941—Semi-annual meeting, Kansas City.

October 12 to 15, 1941—Fall meeting, Louisville.

The Inland Empire Section of the society has ex-