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-