

layers near the surface, pushing these northward and elevating them above the sea-level, thus exposing heavier layers deeper down. A fact favoring this conception is that the average specific gravity of the entire earth is approximately twice that of the continental masses. It may be that both conceptions are involved.

In a preliminary note it is neither necessary nor feasible to discuss in detail the bearing of the proposed hypothesis on all the different observed peculiarities

which have been noted above. In most cases a possible bearing is obvious at a glance, which is enough for the present. That some of these relations are apparent rather than real and that not all will be confirmed, is to be expected. The hypothesis is too radical and too many factors are involved to permit of more than tentative acceptance for careful examination. There appears, however, to be no reason known at present for concluding that some such origin is impossible.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO

HOUSED in the hospital and laboratory building of the Zoological Society of San Diego is the Biological Research Institute, whose facilities, research opportunities and two research fellowships have been discussed in a recent number of this journal.¹

Two out of some thirty applicants have been advised of their election to the two fellowships. Jackson S. Kiser, graduate student at the University of Washington, will pursue at the Biological Research Institute studies of food infection in animals, for work toward the doctor's degree from the University of California at Los Angeles. Lawrence R. Penner, Ph.D., 1940, University of Minnesota, will conduct comparative parasitological investigations. Both these men began their work on September 1.

In addition to the conducting of careful and complete *post-mortem* examinations of all animals which die in the zoo and of many wild animals which are brought in from the outside, dead from natural causes, special hospitalization is given to a great variety of animals maintained in the zoo. Investigations concerning nutritional requirements and especially the parasitic diseases of various animals, are in progress, and an early extension of such studies is planned.

Dr. Charles R. Schroeder, veterinary pathologist in charge of the hospital and laboratory; Dr. Carlton M. Herman, a visiting investigator; and Willis Doetschman, a graduate student in the University of Southern California, are conducting research in various phases of animal parasitology. Dr. Herman's present investigations are concerned with life-cycles of certain worm parasites of seals and other animals. Mr. Doetschman is conducting a survey of internal parasites of captive animals, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a master's degree. Several voluntary workers and a number of students from San Diego State College on a special National Youth Administration project are carrying out technical and statistical investigations under the direct supervision of Dr. Schroeder.

¹ SCIENCE, 92: 55, 1940.

The Research Committee of the institute, who give their counsel and other assistance without compensation to students and research workers are the following: *Protozoology*: Dr. Rawson J. Pickard, San Diego (chairman); *Pathology*: Dr. Howard A. Ball, San Diego; *Biochemistry*: Dr. Denis L. Fox, assistant professor of marine biochemistry, Scripps Institution of Oceanography of the University of California, La Jolla; *Surgery*: Dr. Hall G. Holder, San Diego; *Ophthalmology*: Dr. George L. Kilgore, San Diego; *Physiology*: Dr. Eaton M. MacKay, director of research, Scripps Metabolic Clinic, La Jolla; *Cardiology*: Dr. Francis M. Smith, Scripps Metabolic Clinic, La Jolla; *Dental Pathology*: Dr. Quintin M. Stephen-Hassard, La Jolla; *Microbiology*: Dr. Claude E. ZoBell, assistant professor of marine microbiology, Scripps Institution of Oceanography of the University of California, La Jolla.

The committee appointed to supervise the research conducted under the fellowships consists of the following members of the Research Committee: Drs. Pickard (chairman), Ball, Fox and ZoBell.

DENIS L. FOX

THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

THE Great Smoky Mountains National Park was dedicated at Newfound Gap by President Roosevelt on September 2.

The park is almost equally in the states of North Carolina and Tennessee, on the crest of the Great Smokies. Newfound Gap is on the boundary line, where the park's one trans-mountain road crosses.

Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, presided at the dedication exercises, and Governor Clyde R. Hoey, of North Carolina, and Governor Prentice Cooper, of Tennessee, made brief addresses. These were followed by the dedicatory address of the President.

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is one of the units of the Federal Park System administered by the National Park Service "for the benefit and enjoyment of the people." It may be visited any day