SURVEY OF THE FLORA OF GUATEMALA

A BOTANICAL expedition to survey the flora of Guatemala for the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, will be conducted during the next seven months by Paul C. Standley, curator of the herbarium. Mr. Standley left Chicago on September 30 to board the steamship *Zacapa* at New Orleans for Puerto Barrios. The expedition will continue explorations conducted by a similar expedition which he led in 1938–39, and an expedition conducted by Julian A. Steyermark, assistant curator of the herbarium, in the early part of 1940. The ultimate purpose of the work of all three expeditions is the preparation of a descriptive and illustrated account of the plants of Guatemala, to be published by the Field Museum Press.

The plant life of Guatemala is more varied than that of any other country of Central America, and quite possibly richer in number of species. In spite of intensive work by the previous Field Museum expeditions, there still remain important areas of the country whose flora have not yet been investigated, due to the exceedingly varied topographical features. Some regions, such as the great Department of Peten whence comes much of the chicle used in a Chicago industry, are so difficult of access that their flora is not likely to be well explored for many years. However, the government at present is extending a long road into Peten, so that during the coming winter it may be possible to reach even that region by automobile.

The present expedition is leaving early in the season in order to reach Guatemala before the summer rains and their effects have ended. The country has approximately six wet and six dry months, the latter coinciding with the autumn and winter of the north. In many parts of the country there always is sufficient moisture to support a continuous abundance of growing plants, but in other parts the vegetation during winter months is almost as greatly reduced as in the United States. It is necessary to visit these areas before too many of the plants have been killed by cold and drouth. After they have been worked as long as seems advisable, collecting will be continued in moister regions, such as the Pacific Coast and the rain forests of Alta Verapaz, the centers of coffee production.

It is expected that the present expedition will obtain species new to science, and others that have never been recorded before from Guatemala. Thus data will be provided for completing the descriptive account of the plant life of this relatively small but highly varied and exceptionally interesting country.

APPOINTMENTS AT THE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

THE following changes have been announced in the Medical School of the University of Minnesota:

Dr. J. Frank Corbett retired July 1, 1940, from the faculty as clinical professor of surgery in the Division of Neurosurgery. Dr. Corbett was made clinical professor emeritus of surgery.

Dr. Lemen J. Wells, formerly of the University of Missouri, has been appointed associate professor of anatomy.

Dr. Charlotte M. Gast has been appointed assistant professor and assistant director of the course in medical technology.

Dr. Edwin S. Fetcher, formerly of the University of Chicago, and Dr. Robert B. Dean, of the University of Rochester, have been appointed instructors in the department of physiology.

The following promotions have been announced:

Dr. Halvor O. Halvorson has been made professor of bacteriology; Dr. Raymond N. Bieter, professor of pharmacology; Dr. William A. O'Brien, professor of preventive medicine and public health and director of postgraduate medical education; Dr. Cecil J. Watson, professor of medicine and director of the Division of Internal Medicine; Dr. William T. Peyton, professor of surgery and director of the Division of Neurosurgery; Dr. George O. Burr, professor of botany and of physiology, has in addition been appointed director of the Division of Physiological Chemistry.

Dr. Arthur C. Kerkhof has been promoted to clinical associate professor of medicine; Dr. Starke Hathaway to clinical psychologist and associate professor of nervous and mental diseases; Dr. James B. Carey to clinical associate professor of medicine, and Dr. Wallace D. Armstrong to associate professor of physiology and director of biological research in dentistry.

THE MOUNT DESERT ISLAND BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY

THE Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory officially closed its 1940 season on September 15.

At the annual meeting of the corporation held on August 8 the following trustees were elected to serve until 1943: William H. Cole, Robert W. Hegner, Warren H. Lewis, E. K. Marshall, Jr., David O. Rodick and Stanley J. G. Nowak. Trustees serving until 1942 are: Earl O. Butcher, Esther F. Byrnes, J. T. Halsey, C. C. Little, Dwight E. Minnich and Homer W. Smith. Those serving until 1941 are: Hermon C. Bumpus, Ulric Dahlgren, George B. Dorr, John Whitcomb, J. W. Burger and Roy Ph. Forster. David O. Rodick was elected clerk of the Corporation for 1941.

At the annual meeting of the trustees held on August 17, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Ulric Dahlgren, *president;* Dwight E. Minnich, *vice-president;* John Whitcomb, *treasurer;* and J. W. Burger, *secretary.* William H. Cole, who had served for nine years as director of the laboratory, resigned and Roy Ph. Forster was elected to replace him. Homer W. Smith and William H. Cole were elected members of the executive committee to serve with the president and director of the laboratory.

Plans for the 1941 season include the construction