

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 post-graduate 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 Whitecomb, 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 Whitecomb, *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

of three new laboratory buildings, each designed to serve as a separate research unit.

RECENT DEATHS

DR. ALEXANDER S. BEGG, professor of anatomy and dean of the School of Medicine of Boston University, died on September 26 at the age of fifty-nine years.

DR. GEORGE RUTLEDGE, professor of mathematics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, died on September 21 at the age of fifty-eight years.

PROFESSOR JOHN E. EMSWILER, chairman of the department of mechanical engineering of the University of Michigan, died on September 23 at the age of sixty years.

DR. B. D. WILSON, professor of agronomy at the New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University, an authority on the chemistry of peat and peat soils of northeastern United States, died from the results of an automobile accident on September 5. He was fifty-one years old.

EDWARD CHAUNCEY WORDEN, consulting chemist,

who was head of the Worden Laboratory and Library at Millburn, N. J., died on September 22. He was sixty-five years old.

A CORRESPONDENT writes that the death of Joseph William Blankinship at Decoto, Calif., on July 2, 1938, professor of botany in Montana State College from 1898 to 1905, has only now become known. In later years, as a plant pathologist, Mr. Blankinship was employed by the smelter companies in Montana, Utah and northern California. In the course of his work he made extensive collections of spermatophytes in the upper Sacramento Valley, many of which are cited in Jepson's *Flora of California*.

CHARLES GABRIEL SELIGMAN, professor emeritus of ethnology at the University of London, died on September 19. He was sixty-seven years old.

PROFESSOR HANS ROSENBERG, an authority on astronomical photometry, former director of the Kiel Observatory and, of late, director of the Observatory at Constantinople, died on July 26 at the age of sixty-one years.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. FRANK B. JEWETT has resigned as president of the Bell Telephone Laboratories, in New York City, to become chairman of the Board of Directors. He will be succeeded as president of the laboratories by Dr. O. E. Buckley, who has been executive vice-president.

BECAUSE of difficulties in administration and especially in communication among the nations belonging to the International Astronomical Union the position of secretary has been taken over temporarily by Dr. Walter S. Adams, American vice-president of the union. Action to this effect has been approved by a majority of the members of the executive committee at the request of Sir Arthur Eddington, president of the union, and Dr. J. H. Oort, secretary. Communications relating to the activities of the union should now be addressed to Dr. Adams at the Mount Wilson Observatory, Pasadena, Calif.

A BANQUET was held in Chicago on September 14 in honor of Dr. Frederick B. Noyes, retiring dean of the College of Dentistry of the University of Illinois, in recognition of "his noteworthy contributions to the fields of orthodontia, dental education, dental research and organized dentistry." It was sponsored by the faculty of the College of Dentistry. The speakers included Dr. Allan G. Brodie, of the department of orthodontia of the College of Dentistry, who acted as toastmaster; Dr. Arthur Cutts Willard, president of the University of Illinois; Dr. Leroy M. S. Miner,

dean of the Dental School of Harvard University; Dr. Arthur H. Merritt, immediate past-president of the American Dental Association, and Dr. Isaac Schour, president-elect of the International Association for Dental Research.

DR. HENRY B. ALLEN, secretary and director of the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, and David Dietz, science editor of the Scripps-Howard Newspapers, have received the Goodrich award for distinguished public service.

PROFESSOR OLIVIER has been elected president of the Société Française de l'Histoire de la Médecine, Paris.

DR. EDWARD A. OLIVER, clinical professor of dermatology at Rush Medical College since 1927 and a member of the Rush faculty since 1912, has been appointed professor and chairman of the department of dermatology and syphilology at Northwestern University Medical School. He succeeds Dr. Arthur W. Stillians, who retired recently with the title of professor emeritus.

T. HOYLE LEE, graduate teaching assistant at the University of Wisconsin, has been appointed associate professor of mathematics at the University of South Carolina.

DR. HUGH J. BICKERSTAFF, associate director in the division of maternal and child health, Georgia State Department of Health, has resigned to become