stipend of $1,000, is restricted to research work in the field of cytology. It is open to those who have already received their doceor's degree and have worked in this field. Appointment is for a single year with the possibility of reappointment; no teaching or assistance is required of the holder of the fellowship. Applications must be made before March 1, accompanied by statements of investigations, publications or work in progress. Inquiries and applications should be sent to Dr. Geo. T. Hargitt, Biology Building, Duke University, Durham, N. C.

THE geological courses at Upsala College, East Orange, N. J., have been discontinued. Its geological collections have been divided among the U. S. Military Academy, the Smithsonian Institution and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Museum News states that in acordance with a measure passed by the City Council in August the Cleveland Museum of Natural History took over control of the Brookside Park Zoological Garden in Cleveland at the beginning of October. Harold T. Clark, president of the museum, invited thirty citizens of Cleveland to serve on a board of control for the zoo. The museum now has control of the Holden Arboretum, the trailside museums in the parks and the Zoological Garden. The contract with the city provides that the mayor, director of public properties and president of the City Council be members of the board of trustees. The city provides $50,000 annually for the operation of the park by the museum, provides repairs and policing and furnishes public utility service without cost. The museum is given full authority to manage and develop the garden.

GLENCOE, a seven-acre estate at Irvington, N. Y., valued at $50,000, and originally a part of the Alexander Hamilton family holding, has been given to Columbia University by Mr. and Mrs. John W. Donaldson, of Millbrook, N. Y. It will become part of the arboretum being developed for use by students in landscape architecture at Columbia. Glencoe borders Nevis, the sixty-eight acre estate presented to the university in 1935 by the late Mrs. T. Coleman du Pont, of Wilmington, Del., widow of the former United States Senator from Delaware and mother of Mrs. Donaldson. The grounds of Glencoe will be adapted to the general scheme of the Nevis Arboretum.

THE Board of the Nobel Foundation at Stockholm, on October 11, asked the Swedish Government to allow a postponement in conferring the 1940 Nobel Prizes for literature, physics and chemistry until the 1941 prizes are conferred. The prize in physiology and medicine has also been reserved until 1941 by the Faculty of the Carolean Medico-Surgical Institute in Stockholm. The Peace Prize, which the Nobel Committee of the Norwegian Storting has to confer, also can not, for obvious reasons, be conferred this year.

DISCUSSION

PROBLEMS OF AGING

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH of the United States Public Health Service is organizing a new unit for research into some of the many problems of aging. With the conspicuous shift to greater age in the population, senescent individuals are becoming increasingly significant in the national economy and defense. Preventive medicine must attack the practical problems of the rising proportion of deaths attributable to diseases of middle and later life and energetically attempt to augment the health and vigor of those past the meridian. Aging is a continuous biologic phenomenon which starts upon creation of a new individual and continues at variable rates until death. The problems of aging (gerontology) are not limited to the diseases of the aged (geriatrics), for the latter are the consequences of senescence. In man, probably the most significant period of life for gerontologic study is late maturity, approximately the two decades between 40 and 60.

The problems of aging are logically divisible into three major fields of investigation: (1) the biology of senescence as a process, (2) the human clinical problems of aging and of diseases characteristically associated with advancing years which include the mental changes of senescence and senectitude as well as the physical changes, and (3) the socio-economic problems of a shifting age distribution in the population. The National Institute of Health is concerned with the first two of these divisions of the science.

In order to advise this new unit, there has been formed a National Advisory Committee on Gerontology, representative of the scientific thought of the nation. The membership of this advisory committee includes: L. R. Thompson, director, National Institute of Health, U. S. Public Health Service; Anton J. Carlson, physiologist, University of Chicago, National Research Council; Charles L. Christiernin, Association of Life Insurance Medical Directors of America; medical director, Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.; Robert A. Coker, zoologist, University of North Carolina; William Crocker, botanist, Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research; Lawrence K. Frank, sociologist, Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation; A. Baird Hastings, biochemist, Harvard University; Ludvig Hektoen, pathologist; consultant, National Cancer Institute, U. S. Public Health Service; Winfred Overholser, psychiatrist, superintendent, St. Elizabeths

Hospital; Clarence Selby, industrial physician, General Motors Corporation; William D. Stroud, clinician, Philadelphia, Pa.

The first service to scientific research which the unit on gerontology is undertaking is to conduct a survey of the present trends of active and contemplated investigations into the problems of aging in American scientific institutions. This survey is intended to ascertain just what problems are being studied and what methods of approach are being applied. There is no desire to learn, in advance of publication, the data being developed in these specific undertakings.

In addition to these studies, many investigations which do not pertain directly to aging should yield data useful to workers in gerontology. The unit on gerontology is especially interested in knowing of these indirectly related studies, the full implications of which are far too often obscured in their published titles.

Inquiries about studies related to aging are being sent to scientists in the basic biologic sciences as well as to clinical investigators, for much fundamental work upon the processes, mechanisms and consequences of senescence is probably going on in the sciences of botany, zoology, physiology, pharmacology, psychology, etc. From the clinical viewpoint, our greatest concern is with those studies dealing with health evaluation, mensuration of functional capacity (including criteria of "physiologic age") and with those diseases whose incidence increases sharply in later life (the so-called "degenerative disorders").

Critical analysis of the information elicited by such a survey may be expected to serve several valuable purposes. It should assist in bringing together in closer cooperation investigators interested in related problems, especially when widely divergent methods of approach are being utilized. The survey will likewise emphasize the urgent need for greatly augmented support for significant studies of these vitally important problems of senescence.

The broad and general pattern of the problems being investigated will undoubtedly reveal a number of neglected "blank spots" which may justify special emphasis in the future. Analysis of the data of the survey will also be an invaluable aid in formulating future research programs, both at the National Institute of Health and elsewhere.

From preliminary inquiries it is observed that there is a great but largely latent and scattered interest in the problems of aging. It is the hope of the unit of gerontology of the National Institute of Health that the present survey may serve to effectively aid the promotion of closer cooperation of the scientists interested in these fields.

Information concerning subjects under investigation and the methods of approach is earnestly solicited.

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SHALL ZOOLOGY REVERT TO THE TIME OF LINNAEUS?

WHEN I read "A Short Zoology of Tahiti in the Society Islands," by Anthony Curtiss,[1] it was clear to me that others would feel as I did when I placed it back on my library shelf.

This little book contains six chapters, namely, mammals, birds, reptiles, fishes, insects and worms and in its classification of these reverts to the time of Linnaeus about 1758.

The attitude and cultural approach to the zoology of Tahiti may be gained from the first two paragraphs of the Introduction:

> Zoology is the study of animal life, as distinguished from botany (the study of plants) and mineralogy (the study of minerals). It is a branch of learning that has interested many of the so-called scientists, because by means of a distortion of it they hope to prove many theories of theirs. As all persons who are virtuous and honest must desire to disprove the distorted and mistaken notions taught by the professors and blindly and superstitiously received by their pupils, it is well that some people should study zoology and report their findings. This little book is only a small beginning; in my greater zoology I shall disprove more of their fables. . . . Too great a use of little understood words, and the employ of too involved a system of classification, are the marks of collegiate duncery. But we need some system, for the sake of convenience, and some technical words, for things having no ordinary names.
>
> As for the system, I use a modified form of the system of Linnaeus, who gave us the binomial (two-term) system that most "scientists" pretend to follow, though they have befogged it with many unconvincing modifications of their own. For instance, they will tell you that spiders and crabs are not insects. Linnaeus, the first to use the word *insecta* in a scientific sense, used it to include all animals having jointed legs. Even the "scientists" admit that spiders, crabs, etc., belong to one group, to which insects (as they restrict the term) also belong; they call this group *arthropods*. But why not use the old Linnaean word *insects*, that everybody understands? I suppose that they do not use it, because they imagine it sounds better to use fancy Greek words that few people know.

Chapter V, on insects, is somewhat more inclusive than the heading suggests as judged from the following quotation, p. 140:

> Following the system of Linnaeus, which is easier to understand than the wild nonsense of the "scientists," I shall include under the term *insects* all those animals

[1] Brooklyn, N. Y.: Guide Printing Company, pp. xvi + 193, 1938.