through its secretary, an appeal for help for the National Central Library of China. Recently Mr. Chiang Fu-Tsung, the director of the National Central Library, requested further cooperation, as follows:

> Due to the restrictions on the purchase of foreign currencies by the Chinese government, the National Central Library is rendered helpless to buy foreign books to meet the increasing demands of our intellectually starved students and scholars. I have been writing to various friends in the U. S. A. to sound their opinion if a drive for book funds can be started. With those funds deposited in a bank in the U. S. A. the National Central Library will be thus enabled to buy the necessary books in America and Europe.

The Union will gladly serve as a collecting agency for these funds. Checks drawn to the China Book Fund may be sent to the secretary of the Union who will deposit them with the U. A. B. S. Treasurer pending the purchasing of books by the National Central Library of China.

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SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITIONS

A SCIENTIFIC expedition sponsored by Mrs. Anne Archbold in her yacht "Cheng Ho" left Suva, Fiji, for other islands in Melanesia on or about November 21. The party consists of Mrs. Archbold, Captain Skolfield, physician and master of the yacht; Miss Mary Keegan, registered nurse; R. Gucker Abbott, malacologist from Harvard; Otto Degener, representing the New York Botanical Gardens, and his assistant Emilio Ordonez; John Wesley Coulter, geographer, University of Hawaii, and John Swingle, photographer. The party will spend about four months in the field, visiting Gilbert and Ellice Islands, Ocean Island, Solomon Islands, Santa Cruz, New Hebrides and New Caledonia. Land shells collected by the malacologist will be sent to Dr. Montague Cooke, of the Bishop Museum, Honolulu, and to Professor J. W. Clench, Harvard University. Botanical specimens will be sent to Dr. Elmer D. Merrill, of the Arnold Arboretum, to Dr. William J. Robbins, of the New York Botanical Garden, to the U. S. Department of Agriculture in Washington and to other institutions.

An Associated Press dispatch states that three members of the Fahnestock expedition, Mrs. Bruce Fahnestock, her son, Sheridan, and his wife, have returned from the South Seas and are organizing a new cruise in search of rare Pacific birds. The expedition, sponsored by the Whitney Memorial Hall of Pacific bird life on behalf of the American Museum of Natural History, left New York in February. The proposed two-year cruise was cut short on October 18 when the 140-foot schooner *Director II* struck a reef east of Australia and sank.

It is reported in *The New York Times* that the resources of Latin America will be studied this winter, in the interests of Western Hemisphere defense, by eight experts sent by the Department of the Interior to survey the deposits of such minerals as manganese and chromite, tin, tungsten and antimony. Of the eight geologists, all of whom are members of the staff of the Geological Survey, five already are in the field, one is on the way and two are awaiting the completion of arrangements with the government of the country to which they have been assigned.

S. R. Capps will make a three-months survey of the manganese deposits of Brazil, where W. D. Johnson, Jr., already is looking for chromite. C. F. Parks, Jr., and T. P. Thayer are in Cuba, studying deposits of manganese and chromite there, while in Bolivia surveys for tin are being made by E. Callighan, with J. F. McAllister making surveys on tungsten and antimony. Through the State Department the Cuban and Brazilian Governments have offered their cooperation in the geological investigations, extending the courtesy of travel on the railroads without cost to the United States Government.

HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LABORATORY AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY

CONSTRUCTION of a new $150,000 laboratory for the College of Engineering of Cornell University designed primarily for research in problems of high-voltage transmission has been authorized by the Board of Trustees.

The laboratory will be used for research into the properties of air and other electrical insulating materials. According to Dr. W. A. Lewis, Jr., director of the School of Electrical Engineering, who will supervise the program, "One of the important problems to be investigated is that of corona, the halo or glow which may surround conductors at high voltages, indicating leakage of electricity to the surrounding atmosphere. Between the empirical work of the practical engineer and the small-scale experiments of the physicist is a large unexplored region where precise investigation and analysis may reveal much of importance in power transmission and throw light on the general properties of materials under electrical tension."

The building, according to Dean S. C. Hollister, will be 72 by 120 feet, and 55 feet high, of steel construction throughout, providing an electro-static shield to keep the effects of high voltages within the laboratory. Connected with it will be a half-mile voltage transmission line. The laboratory will be built on university property near the East Ithaca station, with highway and rail facilities.

It will be provided with both 60 cycle and impulse testing equipment. The former will be used in re-