

analysis of mutation phenomena; properties of giant molecules, proteins, nucleic acid and viruses; atomic interchanges in organic molecules.

Among 36 participants on the program 11 are cytologists, 7 geneticists, 3 biophysicists, 10 biochemists, 4 physicists and 1 mathematician. Most of the participants will be in residence at the Biological Laboratory during the two weeks' period. All those interested may attend and take part in the discussion of papers without further invitation. Programs will be sent on request.

The research facilities of the Biological Laboratory are at the disposal of investigators throughout the summer. Several of the participants in the symposium, as well as a number of other scientific men, will make the laboratory their summer headquarters.

THE SOCIETY OF VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY

At the organization meeting in Cambridge, Mass., on December 28, 1940, a new society to be known as The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology was formed. Its stated objects are "to promote the science of vertebrate paleontology, especially in North America, and to serve the common interests and facilitate the cooperation of all persons concerned with the history, evolution, comparative anatomy and taxonomy of vertebrate animals, as well as the field occurrence, collection and study of fossil vertebrates and the stratigraphy of the beds in which they occur." Any one over twenty-one years of age and actively interested in these purposes is eligible for membership. In addition to vertebrate paleontologists, strictly speaking, it is hoped that the society will serve as a common meeting ground and coordinating body for those concerned with fossil vertebrates from both of the two approaches, geological (stratigraphy, paleogeography, etc.) and biological (phylogeny, comparative anatomy, evolutionary principles, etc.). The dues are one dollar per year.

The society will hold an annual winter meeting and also occasional special meetings, including field excursions when practicable. Such a special meeting and excursion is tentatively scheduled to be held in Nebraska in the summer of 1941 and the next annual meeting will be held during the Christmas holidays in Boston. The society will also gather and distribute to its members information and news of interest to them, names and addresses, notes on activities in this field, compilations of laws concerning collecting, brief special bibliographies and the like. It does not plan to undertake technical publication.

The constitution will become fully effective at the close of the next annual meeting. Until that time Dr. A. S. Romer, of Harvard University, is serving as provisional president and the undersigned as pro-

visional secretary-treasurer. Inquiries should be addressed to the secretary-treasurer, Dr. George Gaylord Simpson, The American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y.

THE VIRGINIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

THE results of recent scientific research work in Virginia will be reported on May 2 and 3 when the Virginia Academy of Science, with its nine hundred and fifteen members, holds its nineteenth annual meeting at the Medical College of Virginia at Richmond. At the banquet in the Hotel John Marshall on May 2, following an address of welcome by Dr. William T. Sanger, president of the Medical College, and a response by Dean Wortley F. Rudd, president of the academy, the annual research prize and the Jefferson Medal, both awarded for outstanding work in research, will be presented by Dr. Frank A. Geldard, professor of psychology at the University of Virginia and chairman of the research committee. Austin H. Clark, curator of the division of echinoderms, U. S. National Museum, and president of the Washington Academy of Sciences, will be the banquet speaker. The subject of his address will be along the line of a policy he has followed for many years—"Find Young Virginia Scientific Talent and Subsidize It." It will be most appropriate for the occasion since at this particular meeting of the academy the members of the sixty-five secondary school science clubs now in the state are completing their organization of a Junior Academy of Science under the leadership of Hubert J. Davis, Matthew Whaley High School, Williamsburg. Besides, the encouragement of young people interested in science has been taken as one of the main projects of the academy. Headquarters for the juniors will be the Thomas Jefferson High School with Miss Martha H. Lipcomb as local chairman. Primarily for their benefit, the House of Magic, demonstrated during the New York World's Fair, will be presented in the Virginia Room of the Hotel John Marshall immediately following Mr. Clark's address.

On May 1, a number of conferences will be held for the purpose of hearing committee reports having to do with various academy projects. During the daytime on May 2 and the morning of May 3, 197 papers will be read in the eleven subdivisions of the academy—13 in astronomy, mathematics and physics, 21 in biology, 12 in botany, 14 in zoology, 31 in chemistry, six in education, 20 in engineering, 20 in forestry, 19 in geology, 22 in the medical sciences and 19 in psychology.

During the meeting, various exhibits will be displayed. Saturday afternoon, May 3, and Sunday, May 4, will be devoted to field trips, one of these being an all-day trip to the Dismal Swamp, under the guidance of experts on the flora and fauna of that region.