

geography, principles of geography or economic geography, consist of a more logical arrangement of chapters, vitalization and expansion of the text and a thorough overhauling of illustrative material. Numerous unnecessary charts and graphs have been deleted or replaced by more useful maps, and the references at the close of each chapter have been brought up to date.

A general discussion of the all-important geographic factor of location and space relationship opens the volume, and is followed by chapters on human relationships to climate, soils and land forms. The larger part of the book is devoted to the regional geography of the several climatic realms, with emphasis on the commercial aspects of agriculture, pastoral activities and the extractive plant and animal industries. Later chapters take up mineral resources and industries, transportation and world trade.

Because of difficulties inherent in the attempt to combine two phases of geography, "College Geography" may give the elementary student a confused and perhaps distorted view of the content of the field. Introduction of the regional organization breaks the thread of the systematic approach to the elements of economic geography. Conversely, the emphasis on economic factors in the regional treatment and the relative lack of discussion of the broader aspects of population distribution, kinds and patterns of human settlements and the geographic foundations of other non-economic cultural phenomena present an incomplete picture of general world geography. Probably this fundamental incompatibility can never be resolved.

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SOCIETIES AND MEETINGS

THE ORGANIZATION OF A NEW SCIENCE GROUP IN THE SOUTH

DELEGATES from practically all the scientific organizations of the South and representatives in scientific and industrial fields of eleven southern states met in Mobile to discuss the need for closer coordination among existing scientific groups and the advisability of forming a new organization.

For years it had been increasingly apparent that despite the existence of very worth-while local, state and regional scientific bodies, very little was actually being done to coordinate and integrate the activities of these organizations and practically nothing, to learn and attack the problems common if not peculiar to the South.

A year ago at the annual meeting of the Alabama Academy of Science, it was agreed that the academy sponsor a gathering of Southern scientists and industrialists in connection with their 1941 meeting to be held at Spring Hill College, Mobile, Alabama. A committee was named and what was but an idea in 1940 is now a reality.

Through the untiring efforts of Dr. George D. Palmer, chairman of the committee on Southern Scientists' Organization, the intensive work of the steering committee meeting on March 19 and those who attended the many business sessions on March 20 and 21, the South now boasts a Southern Association for the Advancement of Science.

For the immediate work of organization, Dr. G. D. Palmer, of the University of Alabama, and Father A. J. Westland, S.J., of Spring Hill College, were named chairman and secretary, respectively, and were authorized to select the committees deemed necessary and

prepare the agenda for the successive business sessions. To outline even briefly the reports of all the committees and the spirited discussion that ensued would require more space than was allotted. The recommendations of the nominating committee that were unanimously adopted follow: To Dr. Palmer was accorded the honor of being designated founder and first president of the new group; L. C. Bird, of Richmond, Va., was elected first vice-president, and Fr. Anthony J. Westland, S.J., of Spring Hill College, was named first secretary. These officials were to function only during the Mobile meeting and were named for the distinction of being the society's first officers. As incoming officers, Dr. W. F. Rudd, of the Medical College of Virginia, was elected president, Milton H. Fies, Birmingham, industrialist, vice-president. Dr. G. D. Palmer was named secretary-treasurer to serve three years, and Dr. G. H. Boyd, of the University of Georgia, was chosen president-elect.

It is believed by those responsible for the newly formed organization that the Southern Association for the Advancement of Science is not just another science association but one with a unique and individual character. The proposed objectives may be summarized as follows:

(1) To organize Southern science to cope with Southern problems.

(2) To recognize the fundamental importance of agricultural, industrial and academic research and assemble evidence which would demand a coordinated effort of these three fields in the solving of Southern problems, thus achieving both an efficient conservation and exploitation of all natural resources.

(3) To maintain, various pressing practical problems notwithstanding, the general concept that science trans-

cends regional boundaries, in the belief that the full cultural development of a democracy requires that its science be universal in its scope and free from the burdens of a continual justification of its utility.

(4) To set up a roster of Southern research talent, thus making readily accessible the essential information re-

garding the available brains and training for (a) specific Southern problems as they arise and (b) Southern contributions to national defense.

A. J. WESTLAND, S.J.,
Secretary

SPRING HILL COLLEGE, MOBILE, ALA.

REPORTS

REPORT OF THE GENERAL DIRECTOR OF THE NEW YORK ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

IN this my first report, it would be ungrateful not to thank my three distinguished predecessors, Hornaday, Townsend and Blair, for the physical and scientific heritages which they have bequeathed.

Forty years ago, Dr. Hornaday remarked that the first year of the actual existence of a zoological park or garden was necessarily its year of severest trial. Not only were there sources of anxiety in adapting the animals to their new quarters and to their curators and keepers, but the adjustment of the institution itself to the needs of the public was of paramount importance.

Two years later, Dr. Townsend, reporting on the first two months of the Aquarium, said that most of his time was devoted to studying the needs of the plant which he had just taken over and to preparing plans for its further development.

There still are trials and anxieties. The continuing adjustment of these great institutions to the needs of the public is *still* of paramount importance. Plans *still* must be prepared for further development. To be static to-day is tantamount to decay. However, it is not the purpose of this report to discuss problems, but rather to render to the society an account of six months' stewardship.

First a note of appreciation for the whole-hearted cooperation of the entire staff, from directors and curators down to messenger boys. The proven potentialities of the personnel permits a report of improvements, having a contract value of over \$25,000.00, effected entirely by the staffs of the two institutions. This type of super-maintenance makes the Zoo and Aquarium much more attractive to the public which they serve.

The greatest accomplishment has been the completion of the contract for the first two units of the African Habitat Group, provided through the generosity of a member of this society. Dr. Hornaday once said, "The actual task of new and previously untried accommodations for animals is, to those who plan and erect them, inevitably a source of great anxiety." The lions have already trod their new island in the new development and have also tried the moats surrounding it. The benefit of seeing animals at close range without inter-

vening bars is, however, worth all the anxiety in the world, and we are confident that the African Plains will be a source of great educational value and enjoyment to the public when they are opened this spring.

My colleague, Belle Benchley, confesses that when she takes visitors around her Zoo in San Diego she usually shows space where she *plans to build* rather than cages and enclosures *already built*. I hope to enjoy the same healthy outlook. Twenty adjacent acres of the old bison range remain available for the expansion of the African Group, and it is hoped that my second annual report will boast of additional units being built for the elephant, the hippopotamus, the rhinoceros and the giraffe.

Other noteworthy improvements include the complete reroofing of the lion house by the city and the start of construction, by the WPA, of a model farm group, east of the Bronx River, where domestic farm animals will be exhibited.

Reaffirming the tenet set forth in our charter that the institutions operated by this society are for the promotion of zoology and kindred subjects, as well as for the instruction and recreation of people, special efforts have been made to provide our visitors with greater interest and entertainment. On the one hand, for example, improved labels help to identify mixed bird collections, while on the other, recognizing the fact that people will feed animals, healthful food is now on sale and most of the animals may be fed without any fear of resulting illness, to the great enjoyment, incidentally, of the public which feeds them.

Elephants, camels and llamas have joined the ponies in providing children with rides, an easy (and profitable) way of overcoming the fear of animals which children so often experience.

Improvements have been effected in food and trinket merchandizing, and there have been healthy increases in these revenues, as well as in parking receipts. These monies are earmarked, as you know, for the purchase of more animals.

Working hours of the staff have been changed so that the greatest available number of employees are on duty during the peaks of attendance.

Two and a half million people came through Zoo turnstiles in 1940 and there were two million visitors to the Aquarium, representing a slight increase over 1939 in the former and a slight decrease in the latter.