

having given long-to-be-remembered lay sermons or lectures, and was a founder of the town's Get-together Club. He was a most able bowler and a proficient golfer in his day, and was keenly interested in basketball, baseball and, in fact, all outdoor sports. One is amazed to learn that he had time for all these things in addition to his many researches which have given Westfield and its State Teachers College an enviable reputation as a scientific center.

Nine different countries have published one or more of his scientific writings, which comprise not less than 85 titles. Besides copepods, his publications include the results of original researches on the embryology of amphibia, sipunculid and nemertean worms; life histories and economic importance of dragon-flies, damselflies, aquatic hemiptera and coleoptera, and freshwater mussels; as well as the results of various biological surveys made chiefly by the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries (now Fish and Wildlife Service) and several school texts and outlines.

Never hurried, he accomplished a prodigious amount of work, and all of it showed evidence of most meticu-

lous care. His manuscripts required as little editorial attention as any ever to be submitted to the National Museum for publication. In this connection, Dr. S. F. Hildebrand recalls an incident at the time when Dr. Robert C. Coker was director of the U. S. Fisheries Station at Fairport, Iowa. On receipt of a manuscript from Dr. Wilson, Dr. Coker called the staff together, in order to show them the manuscript as an example of how a report should be written and how a manuscript should be prepared for publication, so well and beautifully was it done.

Dr. Wilson was one of the most valued scientific collaborators on the rolls of the National Museum. He bequeathed to the museum his library of copepod literature, which is perhaps the most complete of its kind in the world, together with his correspondingly complete card catalogue of copepod names in literature and references to the species dealt with by each author represented in his library.

WALDO L. SCHMITT

U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

CHEMICAL RESEARCH ACTIVITY

A DECREASE of twelve per cent. in the world's recorded chemical research activity for the first half of 1941 as compared with the first half of 1940 is reported by Professor E. J. Crane, of the Ohio State University, editor of *Chemical Abstracts*, to the American Chemical Society.

The United States produces even in peacetime more than a quarter of the world's output of scientific and technical papers announcing new chemical information. It has as yet shown no noticeable decrease in the publication of the results of research for peacetime purposes.

Although the effects of the present warfare between Germany and the Soviet Republic are not reflected in the figures, the U.S.S.R., like the United States, up to the present has more than held its own. The British and German scientific and technical periodicals, in which a good many chemical papers of the peaceful-purpose type are still being published, average about half their regular size with rather wide variation among individual journals.

Abstracts gathered by systematic examination of more than 3,500 scientific, technical or trade journals published in thirty-one languages and obtained from all corners of the earth, and of the patent literature, number approximately 65,000 in a normal year. The twelve per cent. decrease in the past year may be compared with a drop of ten per cent. in abstracts of papers published in 1940 from the number for 1939.

Professor Crane points out:

The reporting of research activity naturally lags behind performance so that war effects will no doubt become increasingly evident. Even so, a decrease of not more than one fifth in peaceful chemical research activity the world over can be safely predicted for war-torn 1941 from the output of the virtually peaceful year 1939. Is that not somewhat surprising?

There has probably not been a great deal of falling off in chemical research considered on the basis of total accomplishment the world over. In such conquered spots as France and Poland there is little or no opportunity or incentive for research. On the other hand, research activity conducted for national purposes and not reflected by publication is obviously in high gear in the countries still at war and in those preparing for the possibility of warfare.

Wide-awake nations recognize the value of their scientific men and they are not putting them in the field. Even so, so-called "all-out" warfare and preparedness, with so many important nations involved, has come very far from killing off chemical research for peaceful purposes. American scientific periodicals remain "fat." Paper shortage is no doubt a factor in the reduction of European journals.

ALASKAN EXPEDITION OF THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

DR. HARRY L. SHAPIRO, associate curator of physical anthropology of the American Museum of Natural History, has returned after working during the summer at Point Hope, Alaska.