

cation with the Pan American Union on January 31, 1942. In accordance with the provision of the original convention between the American republics, that it "shall come into force three months after deposit of not less than five ratifications with the Pan American Union," the treaty will take effect in the ratifying countries on May 1 of this year.

In order of deposit, the seven ratifying countries are as follows: the United States of America, April 7, 1941; Guatemala, August 14, 1941; Venezuela, November 3, 1941; El Salvador, December 2, 1941; Haiti, January 31, 1942; the Dominican Republic, March 3, 1942, and Peru (not yet deposited).

The original convention has been signed by the representatives of eleven other Latin-American countries, leaving only three that have taken no action to date. Species of fauna and flora to be specially protected under the treaty have already been designated by addition to the convention for Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua and the United States.

The first official step towards realization of a Pan-American program for nature protection was taken with the signing of the original convention in Washington, D. C., on October 12, 1940. Now that the second step is assured with the coming into force of the treaty on May 1, it remains for each ratifying country to fulfil its obligations by enacting enabling legislation and issuing executive orders or decrees to implement the treaty and effectuate its purposes. Continual efforts to foster public education in the field of conservation will be necessary to give these official policies practical application and significance throughout the New World.

The objects of the treaty are to protect and preserve native fauna and flora in the American republics, including migratory birds, and to protect and preserve scenery of extraordinary beauty, unusual and striking geologic formations, regions and natural objects of esthetic, historic or scientific value. It provides for the establishment of national parks, national reserves, nature monuments and strict wilderness reserves as soon as possible after its effective date.

GRANTS OF THE NUTRITION FOUNDATION

THE Nutrition Foundation, Inc., recently organized with the support of the food industry, will make its first series of grants, to promote research and education in the science of nutrition, effective on July 1. An announcement made by George A. Sloan, president of the foundation, reads in part:

Grants made by the foundation will go to established institutions in the United States and Canada. The first series of grants, effective July 1, will be made following action to be taken by the trustees at their May meeting.

Problems of critical importance in the war emergency

will be given primary consideration. Food supplies for our allies and for specialized divisions of our armed forces as they spread to the far corners of the earth can not be provided without careful planning and adequate precautions.

Grants will also be made in the support of projects that have a direct bearing upon public health. There is obvious need for more information concerning the relation of diets to dental caries, and much remains to be discovered regarding the nutritional requirements of infants, growing children and people in old age. The foundation's long-time program, however, will place greatest emphasis upon fundamental research to advance the frontiers of science.

A CHINESE SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY ON WEST COAST

THROUGH the efforts of a number of Chinese scientists and technical students in Southern California a new scientific society has been organized, to be called the "Chinese Natural Science Association, U. S. West Coast Chapter," under the auspices of the Chinese Natural Science Association at Chungking, China. The aim of this new organization is the advancement of study and research in the natural sciences and the attainment of a closer cooperation among the scientific workers of China and the United States.

The chapter now has two sections: one in Northern California centered at Berkeley and one in Southern California.

The first meeting was held on March 8. Professor Carl D. Anderson, of the California Institute of Technology, spoke on "Cosmic Rays and the Elementary Particles of Matter," and Dr. Hsueh Chung Kao spoke on "Vitamins in Nutrition." The second meeting will be held on April 12. Dr. John A. Anderson will speak on "The 200-inch Telescope" and Dr. Tze-Tuan Chen, lecturer in zoology, University of California at Los Angeles, will speak on "Some Recent Advances in Protozoology."

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MAMMALOGISTS

THE twenty-fourth annual meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists was held at the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, from March 31 to April 4.

Officers of the society elected for the ensuing year are as follows: *President*, A. Brazier Howell, department of anatomy, the Johns Hopkins Medical School; *Vice-presidents*, E. Raymond Hall, University of California at Berkeley, and Edward A. Goldman, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.; *Recording Secretary*, Seth B. Benson, University of California at Berkeley; *Corresponding Secretary*, Emmet T. Hooper, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; *Treasurer*, Viola S. Schantz, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.; *Editor*, William B. Davis,