

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,

Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College, College Station. *Directors*, elected for the period 1942-44, are: William H. Burt, University of Michigan; J. Kenneth Douth, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh; Claude W. Hibbard, University of Kansas; Olaus J. Murie, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Jackson, Wyo.; and W. E. Saunders, London, Ontario. *Additional directors* are Victor H. Cahalane, National Park Service; William J. Hamilton, Jr., Cornell University; J. Eric Hill, American Museum of Natural History; Remington Kellogg, U. S. National Museum, and Otis Wade, State University of Nebraska.

Since in times of stress, such as the present, there is danger that public resources of permanent value may be exploited unduly to furnish food and other materials, the society passed a resolution opposing the use of any such materials from National Parks, National Monuments or National and State Wildlife Refuges, unless it be demonstrated that such materials can not be obtained elsewhere. It was also resolved that as investigations are now in progress to determine whether or not it will be necessary to exterminate the deer of the Seminole Indians Reservation in order to eradicate tick fever in cattle, to oppose destruction of the deer until the investigations are completed and the results are made public for consideration by the authorities concerned and with due regard to the rights of the Indians.

## THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PATHOLOGISTS AND BACTERIOLOGISTS

At the annual meeting of the American Association of Pathologists and Bacteriologists, which opened at St. Louis on April 2, the following officers were elected for the coming year: Dr. Paul R. Cannon, *President*; Dr. Wiley D. Forbus, *Vice-president*; Dr. Howard T. Karsner, *Secretary*; Dr. Alan R. Moritz, *Treasurer*; Dr. Shields Warren, *Incoming Member of Council*; Dr. Francis Bayless, *Assistant Secretary*; and Dr. Granville A. Bennett, *Assistant Treasurer*.

Dr. Esmond R. Long, director of the Henry Phipps Institute of the University of Pennsylvania, was elected the representative of the association in the Division of Medical Sciences of the National Research Council, and Dr. Jacob Furth, of the department of pathology of the Cornell University Medical College, was appointed a member of the Advisory Committee of the Lymphatic Tumor Registry of the association.

The Gold Headed Cane of the association was awarded to Dr. James Ewing, professor of oncology at the Cornell University Medical School, formerly director of Memorial Hospital.

The next annual meeting of the association will be held in Chicago on April 1 and 2, 1943. At this meeting a symposium is planned on Infectious Granulomas, exclusive of tuberculosis and syphilis. Dr. Wiley D. Forbus has been elected referee.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE National Academy of Sciences will begin its annual meeting at Washington, D. C., under the presidency of Dr. Frank B. Jewett, at the usual time on the 27th of the month, the fourth Monday in April. The meeting this year, however, will be limited to two days, and there will be no presentation of scientific papers or social functions, except a smoker for members on Monday evening. Apart from the annual election of members the time will be devoted to a discussion of the present work of the academy, with special reference to the provisions of its charter which makes it the scientific adviser of the government. The National Research Council, a committee of the academy, which was organized in the emergency of the last war by President Wilson, is now active in the study of scientific problems connected with war work.

THE American Philosophical Society, under the presidency of Roland S. Morris, is meeting on Thursday, Friday and Saturday of the present week in the hall of the society, on Independence Square, Philadelphia. The sessions on Thursday were devoted to an archeological program, the Franklin Medal Lecture being given in the evening by Dr. Sylvanus G. Morley,

of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. The Penrose Memorial Lecture is given on Friday evening by Dr. James R. Angell.

DR. MARSTON T. BOGERT, emeritus professor of organic chemistry at Columbia University, has been elected to honorary membership in the Society of Chemical Industry of England, an organization of which he is the senior past-president. Upon the completion of his presidential term in 1913, he was succeeded by Sir William Crookes.

*Nature* reports that S. Bairstow, of the Chemical Research Station, Research Department of the London Midland and Scottish Railway, has been awarded the Herbert Jackson Prize for 1941, for a paper entitled "The Relation between Calorific Value and the Road Performance of Producer-Gas Vehicles."

THE William Julius Mickle Fellowship of the University of London has been awarded to Professor Alexander Fleming, professor of bacteriology in St. Mary's Hospital Medical School.

THE Academy of Medicine of Washington, D. C., held a dinner meeting on April 22 to hear an address entitled "War's Contribution to Medicine, and Medi-