

paratively greater importance to the pharmaceutical and medical professions. Routine analytical work was therefore largely concentrated on surveying the quality of tinctures of digitalis, strophanthus and squills, extract of posterior pituitary gland and adrenaline hydrochloride solution. In addition to the routine activities a good deal of interest in research problems on subjects which have a direct or indirect bearing on drug work was consistently maintained. For example, one of the first group of drugs which the laboratory investigated was the cardiac drugs of the digitalis series. Liquid preparations of these drugs deteriorate at a fairly rapid rate when stored under the climatic conditions existing in India, and factors leading to this deterioration and loss of potency have been the subject of investigation. Again, the estimation of the antidiuretic potency of pituitary extract in rats was given an extensive trial and found to be quite reliable and to compare favorably with the results obtained by the oxytocic method. In addition, the laboratory has the responsibility of acting as the national center for the maintenance and distribution of certain international surgical standards.

CONSERVATION AND SOUTH AMERICAN EXPEDITIONS

Two projects are announced by the National Park Service, whereby this agency will cooperate in encouraging mutual understanding of conservation problems between the Americas.

A combined plant-hunting expedition and lecture tour in South America is being undertaken by Dr. T. Harper Goodspeed, director of the Botanical Garden at the University of California and a collaborator of the National Park Service. His expedition is a joint project in which the University of California and South American institutions are cooperating. Well known to both continents, because of two other scientific trips to South America in 1935-36 and 1938-39, and author of the recently issued book, "Plant Hunter in the Andes," Dr. Goodspeed has been invited to lecture in Spanish and Portuguese in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Peru and Uruguay. His lectures will include color motion pictures of the National Parks of western United States and deal with wildlife conservation.

A Roosevelt Fellowship for study in South America has recently been awarded to Julian Vogt, ranger naturalist successively in six western National Parks. This traveling fellowship of the Institute for International Education was established by the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, which has financed the project. Ten United States students have been awarded these exchange fellowships, and one student in each of the twenty other American re-

publics. In announcing the project, the coordinator, Nelson Rockefeller, stated:

The 21 American republics confidently face the future together, during the war and after. The scholarship program which the American republics have jointly arranged affords another strong bond to assure the cooperation essential to victory and stable peace.

Mr. Vogt, a graduate of the University of California, will study at the University of Buenos Aires, concentrating on South American policies of conservation. He will also visit the National Parks and reservations of various countries in South America.

THE FLORA OF CUBA

BROTHER LÉON (Joseph Sylvestre Sauget y Barbier), for many years a professor on the staff of the Colegio de la Salle, Vedado, Havana, Cuba, has received a special grant from the Milton Fund, Harvard University, to be utilized by him in preparing for publication a comprehensive work on the flora of Cuba.

Throughout his long residence in Cuba, Brother Léon has devoted a large amount of time to accumulating data on the flora of Cuba, and from his wide experience is eminently fitted to consummate the task to which he has set his hand. Some years ago, in recognition of his accomplishments as a botanist, he was the recipient of an honorary doctorate of science from Columbia University.

Brother Léon was appointed as collaborator on the staff of the Atkins Institution of the Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University, in 1938, in appreciation of his botanical accomplishments. In furtherance of the cooperative work on the flora of Cuba between Harvard and other institutions, may be mentioned the recently published, copiously illustrated volume of 496 pages by Brother Léon and Brother Marie-Victorin, entitled "Itinéraires botaniques dans l'île de Cuba," issued in 1942 by the Botanical Laboratory of the University of Montreal. Publication was made possible through a subvention to the University of Montreal, through the Atkins Institution. The Milton Fund grant to Brother Léon is further evidence of interest in this field of international cooperation. It is the first time that a grant from this fund has been made available for expenditure through an institution outside of the United States, thus forming an excellent illustration of inter-American collaboration.

NEW YORK CHAPTER OF THE SCIENCE SOCIETY OF CHINA

A NUMBER of Chinese scientists in New York City have joined in forming an organization known as "The Science Society of China, New York Chapter." This society was organized originally at Cornell University in 1914 and later was established in China in