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 republics. 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

1918. Its object is to promote better understanding and cooperation among the Chinese research workers in the United States of America in order to contribute to the advancement of the various branches of science, both natural and social.

The activities of the society for the present consist in promoting lecture meetings for scientific discussions at which distinguished speakers will address the meeting.

The officers of the society have been elected as follows:

President: John Y. C. Watt, Cornell University Medical College.

Vice-president: Chek M. Soo-Hoo, Presbyterian Hospital, New York City.

Secretary: Roberta Ma, New York Botanical Garden.

Treasurer: Raymond Yoh, Bank of China, New York City.

Members of the Committee: Katherine Li, Memorial Hospital, New York City; Min Pung Tien, Columbia University; Van Y. S. Hong, Syracuse University.

THE AMERICAN COMMISSION ON SCIENTIFIC NOMENCLATURE IN ENTOMOLOGY

THE disturbed condition of the world during the last few years has interfered with the activities of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, and there is no prospect that this commission will again function successfully for several years to come. Entomologists in the United States have felt that this situation should not be allowed entirely to stifle progress in the development of nomenclature and the clarification of nomenclatorial problems. At the meetings of the Entomological Society of America and the American Association of Economic Entomologists in San Francisco, in December, 1941, a plan was adopted which called for the establishment of an American Commission on Scientific Nomenclature in Entomology.

In accord with the terms of this plan, C. F. W. Muesebeck and Professor G. F. Ferris were appointed to organize the commission. That organization has now been completed and the commission is ready to function. It includes Professor J. C. Bradley, of Cornell University; W. J. Brown and G. Stuart Walley, of the Division of Entomology of the Department of Agriculture of Canada; Professor G. F. Ferris, of Stanford University; Professor T. H. Hubbell, of the University of Florida; Professor H. B. Hungerford, of the University of Kansas; Dr. E. G. Linsley, of the University of California; Professor Clarence E. Mickel, of the University of Minnesota; C. F. W. Muesebeck and P. W. Oman, of the U. S. Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine; Professor A. G. Richards, Jr., of the University of Pennsylvania; Dr. Herbert H. Ross, of the State Natural History Survey of Illinois; Professor C. W. Sabrosky, of the State Agricultural College of Michigan; Dr. R. L. Usinger, of the College of Agriculture of California. Professor G. F. Ferris has been elected as chairman.

The commission will receive, consider and advise upon such nomenclatorial problems as are presented to it. All acts of the commission will be in harmony with the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature, although recommendations for the clarification, extension and improvement of these rules may be made. The commission will report to the two parent societies at their next annual meeting. Communications concerning matters within the province of the commission may be addressed to any of its members.

G. F. FERRIS

MEETING OF EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGISTS IN OREGON

A MEETING of experimental biologists was held at Portland, Oregon, on May 9.

Forty-seven workers from colleges and universities in the States of Oregon and Washington attended the meetings, during which papers were presented on varied subjects ranging from plant and animal physiology to ecology, embryology and genetics, and so forth.

The meeting was organized as the result of a general agreement as to the need for some annual meeting at which biologists interested in experimental work in the Pacific Northwest could get together. Held at Reed College, the program of papers was followed by a dinner at which the subject of the future organization of the group as well as the need for a general biological society in the region was discussed.

It was agreed that for the time being, at least, the organization should remain informal, though with the papers limited to the experimental fields, and that it should remain affiliated with no existing society or institution. It was agreed that the diversity of the subjects in the program as well as the general informality of the meeting were factors contributing to its success.

Dr. Orlin Biddulph, plant physiologist of the State College of Washington, was elected to head a committee to organize a similar meeting in the spring of next year.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY conferred on June 2 at its 188th commencement exercises the doctorate of science on Dr. Jekuthiel Ginsburg, professor of mathematics and head of the department at Yeshiva College; on Dr. Alfred Newton Richards, professor of pharmacology at the University of Pennsylvania; on Dr. Robert