

peoples and their cultures were prepared and published.

The museum collections were increased by 230,231 specimens, which were included in 1,177 separate accessions. Because of wartime conditions a decrease of 211 accessions, 54,351 specimens, in comparison with the number received during the previous year, was not unexpected. The five departments registered specimens received as follows: Anthropology, 2,514; biology, 213,823; geology, 9,725; engineering and industries, 2,266; and history, 1,902. Most of the accessions were acquired as gifts from individuals or as a transfer of specimens by government departments.

THE NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF CHEMISTRY TEACHERS

THE sixth annual summer conference of the New England Association of Chemistry Teachers will be held from August 24 to 28 at Connecticut College, New London. The program will include a symposium on oxidation-reduction and papers on recent developments in various fields of chemistry. Consideration will also be given to post-war teaching problems in the sciences.

Although the summer conferences are held primarily for the benefit of members of the association any one interested will be welcome. Connecticut College, a privately endowed liberal arts college for women, opened for study in 1915. It is situated on a hill-top overlooking the town of New London, Long Island Sound, the Thames River and the hills of eastern Connecticut. A spacious campus surrounding modern granite buildings is supplemented by a hundred-acre arboretum with lake and out-of-door theater. Ocean Beach Park, a new recreation and bathing beach conducted by the City of New London, can be reached in twenty minutes by convenient bus service.

New London is situated midway between New York and Boston on the Shore Line of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad; excellent roads from several directions are available to those able to go by automobile, and bus service is frequent. The summer session of the college will be in progress during the period of the meeting.

Details concerning fees will be published in the June issue of the *Journal of Chemical Education* and the complete program will appear in the July issue. All communications concerning the conference should be addressed to the secretary, Miss Helen Crawley, 45 Lawton Road, Needham, Mass.

ACQUISITION OF A BIRD COLLECTION BY THE NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM

THE section of zoology of the New York State Museum in Albany on April 15 acquired through purchase a notable collection of birds. The collection

consists of 390 study skins representing 165 species and subspecies collected principally in Lewis County, New York, by the late James H. Miller, of Lowville. A few of the species represented were taken in Connecticut and Florida.

Mr. Miller, who died in November, 1943, was one of the collaborators of the late Professor E. H. Eaton in the preparation of his notable study of "Birds of New York" (New York State Museum Memoir 12, Part 1, 1910; Part 2, 1914). For that publication Mr. Miller contributed many records, photographs and other data. This information was supplied in part through the specimens which he collected in Lewis County and which comprise the bulk of the recently acquired collection.

Most of the skins were prepared by Mr. Miller and are beautifully done. Each specimen bears collecting and other data on the specially printed tags which he designed. The birds were taken between the inclusive dates 1881 and 1916 and are in an excellent state of preservation.

In addition to the specimens themselves, the museum has come into possession of the oak storage cabinet in which they were housed and which Mr. Miller made with his own hands; also his handwritten catalogue pertaining to the collection, an abbreviated journal relating to certain of his ornithological observations in the Lowville area and a few other incidental items.

Among the rarer New York State specimens in this collection are three Canada spruce grouse, a golden eagle, two Brunnich's murres, a great gray owl and two northern ravens. Several interesting seasonal and distributional records also are confirmed by specimens, as are other features of ornithological interest.

The collection in question is of considerable importance and value to ornithologists of the northeastern states generally and to those of New York State in particular. It provides tangible data of scientific, historical and sentimental value. Its final resting place in the State Museum could not have been more appropriately chosen.

A complete annotated list of the material in this collection is in course of preparation and in due time will be made available to those who may be interested.

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State Zoologist of New York

THE ANNUAL SESSION OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association for May 6 prints the program for the ninety-fourth annual session of the association to be held in Chicago from June 12 to 16 under the presidency of Dr. Herman L. Kretschmer, professor of urology at the Rush Medical College. Editorial comments in the *Journal*