

### THE RANCHO GRANDE STATION OF THE NEW YORK ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

THE New York Zoological Society has announced that through the cooperation of the Venezuelan Government a new station for scientific research is soon to be established at Rancho Grande, near Maracay. Supported by the Creole Petroleum Corporation and the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, the station, under the direction of Dr. William Beebe, will be headquarters for the forty-fifth expedition of the Department of Tropical Research of the society.

The new station, originally designed as a hotel, is situated at an altitude of 3,000 feet, in the middle of a national forest comprising 300 square miles of conserved and undisturbed rain jungle. It is, however, easily accessible to Venezuelan and North American scientists and students, since it is less than four hours by car from Caracas.

The building is within one hour by motor from several diversified types of country available for study—seashore, mangrove swamps, grasslands, cactus deserts, fresh-water lakes, mountain torrents, rivers and high tropical rain forests with the varying altitudes from sea level to more than a mile. These offer excellent opportunities for the study of varied life histories under changes of altitude, humidity and temperature. The jungle crowds down to the very doors of Rancho Grande and presents problems of great interest and importance. Dominant subjects of study will be behavioristic characterizations of species, the evolution of animal display, the demarcation of ecologic jungle zones and faunal adaptation.

In connection with the expedition, Dr. Beebe and his staff are planning to give illustrated lectures in Spanish at the invitation of scientific societies and universities. The staff includes Miss Jocelyn Crane, research zoologist; Henry Fleming, entomologist, and George Swanson, artist. The party plans to leave for Venezuela this spring for a six months' stay. It is

expected that other North American scientists will visit the station later on.

### OFFICERS OF THE WASHINGTON ACADEMY OF SCIENCES FOR 1945

OFFICERS of the Washington Academy of Sciences have been elected for 1945 as follows:

*President:* John E. Graf.

*Secretary:* F. G. Brickwedde.

*Treasurer:* Howard S. Rappleye.

*Vice-presidents representing the Affiliated Societies:*

Philosophical Society of Washington, George R. Wait

Anthropological Society of Washington, T. Dale Stewart

Biological Society of Washington, Frank Thone

Chemical Society of Washington, Horace S. Isbell

Entomological Society of Washington, Carl F. W. Muesebeck

National Geographic Society, Alexander Wetmore

Geological Society of Washington, George Tunell

Medical Society of the District of Columbia, Frederick O. Coe

Columbia Historical Society, Gilbert Grosvenor

Botanical Society, Frank P. Cullinan

Washington Section of the Society of American Foresters, William A. Dayton

Washington Society of Engineers, Frank B. Scheetz

Washington Section of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, Francis B. Silsbee

Washington Section of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Walter Ramberg

Helminthological Society of Washington, Mario Mollari

Washington Branch of the Society of American Bacteriologists, Harold R. Curran

Washington Post of the Society of American Military Engineers, Clement L. Garner

Washington Section of the Institute of Radio Engineers, Herbert Grove Dorsey

Washington Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Owen B. French

Elected members of the Board of Managers for a term of three years, Henry B. Collins, Jr., and James H. Taylor.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Legion of Merit awarded by the War Department to Colonel Joaquin E. Zanetti, professor of chemistry and director of the chemical laboratories of Columbia University, now of the Chemical Warfare Service, was presented to him at the Edgewood Arsenal on February 20. The citation reads in part as follows: "Colonel Joaquin E. Zanetti, Chemical Warfare Service, U. S. A. For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services from July, 1941, to September, 1944. Occupying successively the positions of chief of the Incendiaries Branch, assistant military attaché in Lon-

don for Chemical Warfare matters and chief of the Special Projects Division, Colonel Zanetti through his high professional attainments and knowledge of chemistry made a distinct contribution in searching for and making available new principles and techniques susceptible of application to chemical warfare."

DR. S. C. BROOKS, professor of zoology at the University of California at Berkeley, has been elected a corresponding member of the Centro de Estudiantes del Doctorado en Ciencias Naturales of Buenos Aires, Argentina.