

peristome is highly specialized for the collection, selection and ingestion of food by means of ciliary and myonemal structures. But at the opposite pole the foot frequently differentiates and dedifferentiates anchoring organs. These are made by the sticky cortex and the brush or "scopula" of cilia that change function, but there is also a reversion to primitive rhizopod activity involving all parts of the foot.

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### THE THREAT OF ANTI-VIVISECTION

SOME careful consideration by appropriate scientific bodies should be given to the threat of anti-vivisection which has flared up recently, particularly in New York State.

The Hearst press succeeded in inflaming the uninformed layman against animal experimentation and medical research. Medical opposition was weak and very nearly ineffectual. If more concrete measures can not be adopted soon it is not impossible that state and even national legislation will be enacted to end scientific animal experimentation.

The means for handling pernicious legislation of this kind exists, but laxity in employing it has created the necessity of calling this fact to the attention of those who will realize its import.

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### THE MATHER COLLECTION OF PORTRAITS

THE National Park Service has placed in the Library of Congress the nucleus of a collection of portraits of national park executives as a memorial to Stephen Tyng Mather, first director of the National Park Service. This collection marks a new approach to the history of national parks by bringing together portraits of the most prominent persons who have been associated with national park work and is intended to include portraits of at least 500 individuals. The collection will include (1) Park executives, present and past; (2) persons who have been associated with the establishment and development of national parks and national monuments; (3) persons who have contributed to national park art and literature, and (4) persons whose names are associated with these areas either through place names or designations of species which occur in these areas.

The collection is filed in the Division of Prints and Photographs in the Library of Congress in vertical steel cases. Each portrait is placed in a standard size envelope marked with the full name and year of birth of the individual and is accompanied by an index card giving at least six items of information, *viz.*,

(a) full name; (b) date and place of birth; (c) position; (d) titles of the author's publications, if any; (e) reference to a published biography, if any, and (f) indication of the association of the individual with park history.

While the national park idea dates back only seventy-five years, to the historic camp-fire of the Washburn-Langford Expedition on September 19, 1870, at the junction of the Firehole and Gibbon Rivers in the western part of the present Yellowstone National Park, the history of some of the other parks and monuments goes back much further, that of Death Valley National Monument and Yosemite National Park a full century or more, and that of St. Augustine, Cabrillo and Coronado National Monuments to the early days of the sixteenth century.

For some years after the creation of Yellowstone National Park in 1872, the reservation was in charge of superintendents appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, but in 1886 a troop of cavalry was detailed by the Secretary of War, upon request of the Secretary of the Interior, with the duty of patrolling the park, and in 1890 similar details of troops were made to Yosemite, Sequoia and General Grant National Parks. The military administration of the parks continued until 1914.

During the fourteen years that Mr. Mather was in charge, the various scattered areas were welded into a well-organized bureau, in accordance with the provisions of the National Park Service Act of 1916, park standards were adopted, the system of park concessions was reorganized, troops were removed and protection provided by park rangers appointed from civil life. The Tiogo Road across the Sierra was opened to travel without payment of tolls, funds were raised to preserve certain big tree groves in Sequoia National Park, then in danger of destruction by lumbering interests, a ranger service hall was established in Yosemite National Park and a system of park to park highways was provided to facilitate travel by persons who wished to visit several of the parks without the inconvenience of making long detours. New and attractive publications were issued and lectures by park naturalists were arranged to assist visitors in appreciating the full meaning of the various points of interest. Much progress was also made in the elimination of private holdings in several of the parks. These are only a few of the things that Mr. Mather accomplished and by which he will be remembered in the future.

The "Mather Collection" is only one of several methods of visualizing and summarizing the great work of conservation, interpretation and education which the National Park Service is carrying on under benefit of all of the people.

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