

Geographical Society, Ecological Society of America, Society of American Foresters, Society of Mammalogists and the Wildlife Society.

He is survived by Inez Muriel Hodges Palmer, to

whom he was married at Fairbanks, Alaska, in 1934; there are no children.

W. L. MCATEE
FRANK DUFRESNE

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE IN GREAT BRITAIN

A MEMORANDUM drawn up by the British Ecological Society on wildlife conservation and ecological research from the national standpoint, as reported in *The Times*, London, states that the protection, scientific study and intelligent use and enjoyment of native plant life and animal life can only be brought about satisfactorily if the State takes a leading responsibility. It is pointed out that local or private bodies, however well informed, are not in a position to discover, or to hold, the correct balance between the complex and conflicting interests which are deeply involved in many wildlife problems. The memorandum reads:

There appears to be no other satisfactory method than to place the responsibility for advice and coordination upon a separate body acting under the Privy Council. It is recommended that a limited number of areas should be selected which are of sufficient scientific importance to warrant their acquisition by the State for the primary purpose of the conservation and scientific study of the principal types of plant and animal community represented in this country. These national reserves should be managed by a national service of conservators and wardens, under the direction of a national authority, who should proceed under powers similar to those employed for the acquisition of land for State forests. A national biological survey should be established to concern itself with the constantly changing wild and naturalized flora and fauna. This body should be charged with fact-finding, research and advice on the conservation, regulation, control and management of plant and animal life in Great Britain.

At least one general ecological research institute with suitable laboratories should be established by and under the powers granted to the proposed national authority. At this institute facilities should be provided for investigations by workers from the universities and the closest touch should be maintained between the institute and the university departments carrying on ecological research, including the development of humane methods of pest control. There should be established, under a Committee of the Privy Council, an Ecological Research Council as the national authority to cover the vast and hitherto neglected field of research. The pressing need is to extend the field of biological research beyond that now covered. With good sense and sound management overlapping of work or competition for money should never arise.

COMMISSIONS IN THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT, REGULAR ARMY

1. The Surgeon General invites attention of all Medical Department officers and former officers, other than those retired, of both male and female component corps to War Department Circular 243, dated 10 August 1945. Subject: "Interests in Commissions in the Regular Army," a summary of which follows:

(a) Present indications are that a number of outstanding officers who have proved their capabilities in this emergency will be needed in the Regular Army peacetime establishment. Until appropriate legislation is enacted, the War Department can not announce the conditions which will govern selection of these officers or the number required. However, it is desired that officers who have served in the emergency, whether or not they are still on active duty, be given the opportunity of indicating their interest in obtaining a Regular Army commission. An officer making such a statement of interest may go off active duty or remain in the service without prejudice to his chances of being tendered a commission when legislation is enacted. It is the intention of the War Department that the fact that an officer has not remained in active service will not affect the grade to be offered or the position he will occupy on the promotion list.

(b) The plan for selecting and integrating officers into the Regular Army officers corps, as well as the size and composition of that corps, will finally be determined by Congress. The War Department will recommend that these officers integrated into the Regular Army be of such age and physical condition as will permit them to serve for a reasonably long period before being retired. No officer will be appointed in a grade higher than that which he held in wartime.

(c) The content of this circular will be brought to the attention of every officer at the earliest opportunity.

2. Officers currently on active military duty and who are interested in being considered for commission in the Regular Army, following enactment of appropriate legislation, may submit a statement of interest to their immediate commanding officer as outlined in the above mentioned circular.

3. Officers and former officers other than those retired who have served since 7 December 1941, and who have been relieved from active military duty under honorable conditions, may submit their statement of interest as outlined in the above mentioned circular direct to The Adjutant General, Washington 25, D. C.