News and Notes

A new prize of $1,000 was added to the awards made annually by AAAS when announcement was made at a luncheon in Boston on 27 December that the AAAS-George Westinghouse Science Writing Awards had been expanded to include science writers for magazines as well as newspapers. 1947 will be the first year of the dual contest. The other $1,000 prize administered by AAAS goes each year to an outstanding paper presented at the scientific sessions, the support for which comes from an anonymous donor.

About People

Loren P. Woods, assistant curator of Fishes, Chicago Natural History Museum, has been granted a two-year leave to accept a temporary post as associate curator of Fishes, U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C., where he will work with L. P. Schultz, curator of Fishes, on the classification of some 40,000 specimens of shore fishes of the four main Marshall Islands, collected before and after the atomic bomb tests at Bikini.

Ford M. Milam, formerly a research assistant at North Carolina State College and more recently in the Army, has been appointed director of Agricultural Experiment Stations in the American zone of Korea.

Aubrey I. Brown has been made head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, The Ohio State University. Prof. Brown succeeds Franklin W. Marquis, chairman since 1929, who has resigned to devote his full time to teaching. The new department head, who was graduated from Ohio State in 1912 and has been on the staff continuously since 1913, is a specialist in research and development of heating, air-conditioning, and ventilating equipment.

Curtis L. Newcombe has resigned as director of the Virginia Fisheries Laboratory, Williamsburg, to join the staff of the Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, as zoologist.

Otis K. McMahon, formerly industrial psychologist of the American Optical Company, has been appointed by Rohrer, Hibler & Replogle as staff psychologist attached to the Chicago office.

National Rubber Research at Stanford University

Stanford University has received a grant of approximately $150,000 from the Office of Naval Research for an eight-month project on natural rubber. The project, to be carried on at Salinas, California, and in the University's laboratories, will be administered by the newly-established Stanford Research Institute.

William F. Talbot, director of the Institute, explained that the aim of the research program will be to develop sturdier, more productive rubber-yielding plants than can now be grown in the United States so that in the event of another national emergency, the country would not be short of potential natural rubber supplies.

Facilities to be used in the project include four government-owned laboratories at Salinas and 340 acres of farm land there, now planted with a wide variety of guayule strains.

Stanford is canvassing the United States and foreign countries for scientific specialists to staff the project. Scientists engaged in the project will seek improved strains and hybrids of guayule and other plants, and will seek to develop plants with a higher rubber content, which will grow more rapidly and sturdily and will be at home even in poor soil. The scientists will also attempt to discover more efficient and economical processes of separating the rubber from other plant material, with an end-product higher in quality than is now possible.

The Salinas laboratories, where guayule research was carried on during the war, are extremely well equipped and are supplemented by an administration building, ample storage facilities, and necessary agricultural equipment.

Work on the project, which is already under way, will continue under the present grant until 1 July 1947.

Personnel engaged in the project, including scientists, administrators, and agricultural workers, will number from 50 to 60.

Reed C. Rollins, Stanford assistant professor of biology, who was with the Government's special guayule project until its curtailment, will be in charge of the plant improvement program; D. U. Gerstel, University of California expert on plant genetics, has been appointed to the Research Institute staff for work on the project; and W. E. Rand, formerly of the Sun Chemical Corporation of New York City, is already at work as project manager and chemical engineer.

The majority of the research work will be carried on in the Salinas laboratories. The rest will be done in the laboratories of the Stanford School of Biological Sciences and of the Department of Chemistry, which will cooperate in the project.