

NEWS and Notes

During the dry seasons of 1946 and 1947 Alexander Wetmore, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, has made brief expeditions into eastern Darién to study the bird life of that area. The region lies on the Pacific side of the Republic of Panamá, near the frontier of Colombia. It is thus on the threshold of the Chocó region of north-western Colombia. The distance involved and the prevalence of malaria have until recently made this region relatively inaccessible.

In 1946, with Watson M. Perrygo, of the National Museum, as assistant, Dr. Wetmore concentrated on the coast at the mouth of the Río Jaqué, making collections, principally of birds, and simultaneously carrying on studies of the migration of North American birds to South America in our winter season. Here also he established friendly relations with the Chocó Indians, who came down river from the interior. This year, on invitation from the Indians, Dr. Wetmore and Mr. Perrygo returned to Jaqué, traveling into the mountains in dugout canoes poled by the natives through the rapids to the head of navigation. Hunting trails were cut in the forests surrounding the camp, and other areas were reached by Indian trails. The collections of birds made on this expedition, now in the National Museum, fill in gaps in distribution and add to knowledge of the life of the region.

About People

Six leading U. S. scientists are now in Japan on a 30-day visit made at the request of the War Department and sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences. This group, which will assist in evaluating plans submitted by Japanese scientific organizations for the democratization of scientific research in that country, includes Royal W. Sorensen,

head, Electrical Engineering Department, California Institute of Technology; William V. Houston, president of Rice Institute; Roger Adams, head, Department of Chemistry, University of Illinois; William J. Robbins, director, New York Botanical Garden; William D. Coolidge, director emeritus of research, General Electric Company; and Merrill K. Bennett, executive director, Food Research Institute, Stanford University.

Harley P. Brown, Department of Zoology, University of Idaho, has been appointed to the staff of the Department of Biology, Queens College, Flushing, New York.

Waldo Shumway, since 1922 a member of the staff in zoology, University of Illinois, will become dean at Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, New Jersey, on September 1.

Otto Degener, author of *Flora Hawaiiensis*, addressed the Hawaiian Botanical Society May 5 on "Plant Hunting in Fiji." As guest botanist on Mrs. Anne Archbold's second expedition in her 100-foot junk-yacht, *Cheng Ho*, he discovered the flowers of the new plant family *Degeneriaceae* on the island of Viti Levu. The *Cheng Ho*, sold to the Navy in 1941, has been repurchased by Dr. Degener in Honolulu for use in further explorations in the South Seas. Scientists interested in joining such trips are requested to communicate with Cdr. J. P. Norfleet, Cape May, New Jersey.

I. Forest Huddleson, research scientist at Michigan State College, in a paper presented before the recent International Congress for Microbiology in Copenhagen, told of a new treatment for undulant (Malta) fever which involves a new application of the sulfa drugs. Whole blood is injected into the patient's system, sulfadiazine then being administered in small amounts for one week. It is Dr. Huddleson's hope that he may be able to perfect a compound that will make it possible to inject both drug and antibodies simultaneously into the bloodstream without the necessity of relying on a blood bank. The new treatment, which may also prove successful in other infectious diseases, is based on his

original theory that the drug does not actually destroy the germs but increases the action of the antibodies in the serum which, in turn, kill the harmful bacteria.

Colleges and Universities

The Centennial of the Sheffield Scientific School, Yale University, will be celebrated on October 15-17. On the first two days of the ceremonies a series of four Silliman Lectures will be given by Ernest O. Lawrence, professor of physics, University of California; Linus C. Pauling, professor of chemistry, California Institute of Technology; Wendell M. Stanley, of the Rockefeller Institute, Princeton, New Jersey; and George W. Beadle, professor of biology, California Institute of Technology. On October 17 there will be a University Convocation, at which President Seymour will confer honorary degrees upon candidates presented by Edmund W. Sinnott, director of the School, who will be public orator. The address on this occasion will be given by Dean Emeritus Charles H. Warren. Throughout the celebration those present may view a series of exhibits, located in the Sterling Memorial Library and depicting the history of the School and of science at the University. The Centennial is coincident with a fundamental reorganization of the Sheffield Scientific School. The undergraduate bodies and faculties formerly divided between the sciences and the humanities have been consolidated, and the School has now become the Division of Science of the University, responsible for graduate instruction and general promotion of science.

Meetings

The Fourth International Cancer Research Congress will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, September 2-7, under the sponsorship of the American Association for Cancer Research and the Union Internationale Contre le Cancer. Attempts are being made to cover the most important aspects of cancer research both in clinics and laboratories. Papers will be read and discussed, exhibits will be shown, and moving pictures will be presented. Headquarters will be at the Hotel Jefferson, 415 North 12th Street. All those interested will be cordially welcome.

Special invitations are unnecessary. A registration fee of \$10.00 will be charged to help defray the expenses of the meeting. The U. S. Department of State has transmitted formal invitations to all Governments with which the United States has diplomatic relations, asking them to send official delegates to the Congress. In addition to these official delegates, many leading cancer investigators will come from abroad and represent their governments informally. As of July 22, representatives of 29 nations had decided to attend. A total attendance of about 1,000 is expected, chiefly from the United States. Information can be obtained from The Fourth International Cancer Research Congress, 3427 Washington Avenue, St. Louis 3. To make hotel reservations, apply to the St. Louis Convention Bureau, 911 Locust Street, St. Louis 1.

The International Statistical Conferences, to be held in Washington, D. C., September 6-18, will bring a number of foreign biometricians to this country. None of the sessions in Washington, however, is specifically biological. To fill this need, a small committee was named last April by D. B. DeLury, chairman of the Biometrics Section, American Statistical Association. Following a preliminary survey, the committee decided in favor of an informal conference to be held on Friday and Saturday, September 5-6, at the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Invitations have been sent to the delegates to the International Statistical Conferences interested in biometry and to other foreign quantitative biologists.

It was clear that this First International Biometric Conference should be sponsored by an Organizing Committee which would be broadly representative of the sciences contributing to quantitative biology. Because biometry applies to the fields of several of its Divisions, the National Research Council has named two representatives on the Committee. The Committee includes: A. F. Blakeslee, Smith College; C. I. Bliss, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station; W. G. Cochran, North Carolina State College; E. J. deBeer, Wellcome Research Laboratories; H. K. Hartline, University of Pennsylvania; H. W. Norton, U. S. Weather Bureau; N. Rashevsky, University of Chicago; E. W. Sinnott, Yale

University; J. W. Tukey, Princeton University; John von Neumann, Princeton University; and E. B. Wilson, Harvard University. The Organizing Committee is indebted to one of the Foundations for financial support.

The following sessions are planned: September 5 (A.M.), Progress in Quantitative Genetics—Leading paper: "A Quantitative Theory of Genetic Recombination," R. A. Fisher, University of Cambridge; (P.M.), Recent Biometric Developments in Certain European Institutes—Informal reports by foreign delegates; September 6 (A.M.), International Cooperation in Biometrics; (P.M.), Quantitative Growth—Leading paper: "The Basic Laws of Growth," G. Teissier, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris. The sessions are open to all who may be interested.

Living accommodations for many of those attending the conference have been made available by the Marine Biological Laboratory, and information on other accommodations in and near Woods Hole is being compiled. Since the summer schedule will no longer be effective, the New Haven train 24, leaving Grand Central Terminal at 4:00 P.M. (D.S.T.) on Thursday, September 4, will be met at Providence by chartered buses. These will leave the Station in Providence at 8:00 P. M. (D.S.T.) directly for Woods Hole. Through train service from Woods Hole to New York and Boston is available on Sunday morning and late afternoon, September 7. Those interested in attending the conference may apply for information on living accommodations and for space on the chartered bus to C. I. Bliss, Box 1106, New Haven 4, Connecticut.

Recent Deaths

Homer H. Plagge, 53, research professor of pomology, Iowa State College Agricultural Experiment Station, died June 5 of a heart attack while attending a conference on the campus.

H. W. Richey, 57, professor of horticulture, Iowa State College, died June 16 after a year's illness. Prof. Richey had been on the Iowa staff for 27 years.

Arthur Gideon Cole, 48, assistant professor of biological chemistry, University of Illinois, College of Medicine, died in Chicago on July 14. Dr. Cole had

been a member of the staff in biological chemistry since 1924.

Clarence M. Weed, 82, retired president of Lowell State Teachers College, Lowell, Massachusetts, and well-known entomologist, died July 18 at his summer home in Plymouth, New Hampshire.

Francis J. Seery, 73, professor emeritus of hydraulic engineering, Cornell University, died on July 27 in Dover, Delaware, after a long illness.

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station is currently distributing its new 64-page Annual Report, entitled "Science Works for Agriculture." The booklet attempts to show how research aids the farmer in each of the 8 phases of the Station's work: insect control, disease control, plant breeding, soil science, forestry, tobacco research, analytical chemistry, and biochemistry. The report is available free of charge to any resident of Connecticut upon request to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven.

The Conference on Premedical Education sponsored by Alpha Epsilon Delta, national honorary premedical fraternity, at the University of Louisville, February 21-22, was attended by representatives of 9 medical schools and about 70 undergraduate colleges and universities situated in Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, and Kentucky, according to the report of Hugh E. Setterfield, national president of the fraternity. The two main sessions dealt with (1) problems in the natural sciences and (2) problems in the social sciences and humanities in relationship to premedical and medical education. John L. Caughey, Jr., assistant dean, School of Medicine, Western Reserve University, keynoted the first session; Paul F. Bloomhardt, professor of biography, Wittenberg College, the second; and the dinner meeting was addressed by Father Hunter Guthrie, dean, Graduate School, Georgetown University, on "The Need for Liberal Arts in a Premedical Education."

From the discussions it was evident that there was much interest and concern regarding the methods, content, and direction of current premedical and medical education. There was almost unanimous agreement that heretofore there has been a tendency to overemphasize the

science content of premedical education, with consequent neglect of the social sciences and humanities. It was felt that the medical profession should become more aware of, and responsible for, present social ills. Those in attendance agreed that students preparing for the study of medicine should be thoroughly grounded in the fundamentals of physics, chemistry, and biology required for admission to medical school, but no more; and that such students should take more courses in the social sciences and humanities. The Conference recommended that students take the full four-year liberal arts course leading to a Bachelor's degree, about 50 semester hours being devoted to the natural sciences, and the remaining 70-80 hours to the social sciences and humanities. According to Dr. Setterfield's report, many felt that foreign language requirements for admission to medicine should be dropped, although languages should be retained in the college degree programs.

A complete report, including the papers and discussion, appears in the May issue of *The Scalpel*, obtainable at Alpha Epsilon Delta, 3853 Lakewood, Detroit 15, Michigan.

A proposal to set up an International Mathematics Union was well supported by a meeting of mathematicians from Europe and America at UNESCO house, Paris, June 24, under the auspices of the Mathematical Society of France. The next step in the creation of the Union will be taken in October, when the Mathematical Society of France will call a meeting of representatives of various national mathematical bodies which will be empowered to set up the international organization, should they desire to do so.

Two new international scientific journals have recently been announced by the Elsevier Publishing Company, New York City. *Analytica Chimica Acta*, a monthly publication devoted to all branches of analytical chemistry, is under the editorship of Paul E. Wenger, 8 rue St. Victor, Geneva, Switzerland. The annual subscription is \$9.50 (postage free). The other journal, *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta*, to be published 6-8 times annually by Elsevier and Interscience Publishers jointly, is under the supervision of an Editorial Board consisting of W. T. Astbury (Leeds), A. Braunstein

(Moscow), C. F. Cori (St. Louis, Missouri), Cl. Fromageot (Lyons), K. Linderström-Lang (Copenhagen), H. G. K. Westenbrink (Utrecht), and R. W. G. Wyckoff (Bethesda, Maryland). The subscription price is \$9.00 (postage free). Manuscripts submitted to both journals should be in English, French, or German. Brief summaries of the articles will appear in each of these languages. Subscriptions from the Western Hemisphere should be sent to the Elsevier Book Company, 215 Fourth Avenue, New York City 3; from all other countries to the Elsevier Publishing Company, 118 b, Spuistraat, Amsterdam C.

The German Hydrographic Institute, now functioning in Hamburg, is to have a new medium of publication for articles emanating from the Institute, according to a letter from J. N. Carruthers, Manor Fields, Putney, London. The new *German Hydrographic Journal*, which will cover material in the fields of coastal and open-sea surveying, nautical science, navigation, chronometry, terrestrial magnetism, ship's magnetism, nautical techniques, tides, and physical and chemical oceanography, will, as far as the foregoing subjects are concerned, take the place of the former *Annalen der Hydrographie und maritimen Meteorologie*, published by the German Admiralty from 1873 to 1891 and thereafter by the Deutsche Seewarte up to 1944. As far as possible, each issue will contain articles on a variety of the above-named subjects as well as including notices on hydrographic institutions and related matters. Notices and reviews of publications of interest to the Institute will also appear, together with a current bibliography relating to the special fields of research enumerated. An ultimate aim is the gradual listing of all German and other relevant publications which have appeared since the autumn of 1939. The journal will appear under the supervision of G. Boehnecke, German director of the Institute, and will be edited by Arnold Schumacher.

New England sunspot observers and amateur astronomers met July 12 at the Milton Academy Observatory for a morning discussion period headed by A. E. Navez, director, Milton Observatory. The afternoon session, held at the Blue Hill Observatory, was in charge of Charles Brooks, director, who demonstrated some of the Harvard University

meteorological equipment there. The work of this group is conducted as a special Solar Division of the American Association of Variable Star Observers. Observations from periodic observers, collated at Harvard University, form the basis for calculations of long-range magnetic disturbances vitally affecting worldwide communications systems.

The Virginia Junior Academy of Science and the 185 Science Clubs in Virginia high schools have recently received a contribution of \$1,000 from the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company for the encouragement of scientific studies by talented secondary school students. Previously another \$1,000 had been contributed by an industrial concern to defray the expenses of the Second Virginia Science Talent Search just terminated (*Science*, July 11, p. 34). All of the work connected with these youth projects of the Virginia Academy of Science is carried out by volunteer senior scientists. The funds contributed are used solely for awards to boys and girls who show marked aptitudes for scientific careers. This is one of the best examples in the country of working partnerships on a state level between business and education.

West Virginia University Agricultural Experiment Station recently announced in our columns the publication of a technical reference book by Burch H. Schneider, the title of which should have been *Feeds of the world, their digestibility and composition*, not *Weeds of the world*, etc.

Make Plans for—

American Pharmaceutical Association, August 24, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

American Society of Mammalogists, August 24-27, Higgins Lake, Michigan.

American Institute of Electrical Engineers, Pacific General Meeting, August 26-29, San Diego, California.

American Psychological Association, September 9-13, Detroit, Michigan.

American Association for the Advancement of Science, 114th Meeting, December 26-31, Chicago, Illinois.