

vate or semigovernmental societies or organizations from many parts of the world and 9 international organizations with a common interest in conservation or nature protection. The attendance at the meeting not only manifested a wide interest in the subject but was also a tribute to the preparations for the meeting made by the Swiss League for the Protection of Nature, over a long period of time, and particularly to its secretary-general, Mr. J. Buttikofer. The preparations for the Conference were also a tribute to the Organizing Committee of the French Government under the chairmanship of Dr. Achille Urbain and with the assistance of UNESCO.

The plenary session was opened by a gracious welcome on behalf of the French Government and the city of Fontainebleau, followed by a speech by the director-general of UNESCO, Dr. Julian Huxley, who expressed the hope that the new Union would be established on a broad base.

Dr. Ch. J. Bernard, president of the Swiss League, was elected president of the Conference, and after four days of meetings devoted to drawing up a constitution, the Union was founded and held its first General Session at which all who provisionally signed the constitution for governments or societies were invited to participate. The U. S. delegation, following official instructions, did not sign even provisionally on behalf of our Government, but they did so for the 15 private organizations that they represented.

The new Union elected its officers and Executive Board, established a budget, appointed standing committees, drew up a program of work, appointed its secretary-general, and determined that the seat of the Union, upon invitation of the Belgian Government, would be in Brussels. The Union also elected Mr. P. G. Van Tienhoven, of Holland, its first honorary member and paid special tribute to the work of Mr. J. Buttikofer in connection with the preparation of the Conference and the beautiful and useful magazine, *Pro Natura*, of which he is founder and editor.

During several days of the meeting a valuable technical symposium, with Prof. Roger Heim as chairman, was held under the auspices of UNESCO.

Organized by its Natural Sciences Division, this symposium dealt with 6 subjects of special interest: Legislation and Action by Governments to Preserve Nature, The Scientific Management of Wild Life, Big Game Conservation in Africa, Concepts of National Parks and Conservation Areas, Fauna Conventions and International Legislation, and Relationship of the UNSCUOR to the Proposed UNESCO Conference.

The meetings were held in the magnificent Palace at Fontainebleau, and there were excursions to the Forest and beautiful nearby chateaux, as well as receptions and entertainments characteristic of warm French hospitality. There was also a presentation of "Tovarich" by a famous troupe of actors from Paris, and a state banquet was arranged by the hosts as the climax to the Conference. This was greatly enjoyed by everyone. The Conference was followed by a week of field excursions to important nature areas such as the forests, parks, or reserves in many parts of France.

Perhaps the most important American contribution, aside from trying to establish the kind of a Union that can hopefully expect wide support from nations, private societies, and international organizations everywhere, was the writing into the constitution of the Union of a very much broader definition of Nature Protection, and a greater emphasis on conservation education than was contemplated in the widely circulated Brunnen provisional draft. The U. S. version included a preamble opening with the following definition of "The Protection of Nature" which was constantly mentioned in quotation marks throughout the entire document:

"Whereas the term 'Protection of Nature' may be defined as the preservation of the entire world biotic community or man's natural environment which includes the earth's renewable natural resources of which it is composed and on which rests the foundation of human civilization."

There is reason to hope that the 18 governments that provisionally signed the constitution, as well as many more, will soon ratify this document, that the 123 private or semigovernment societies and organizations represented

at the Conference will ratify their signatures within the specified time, and that additional appropriate organizations will apply for early admission. The private society dues are established at 200 Swiss francs (about \$40) a year.

The first elected officers of the Union are: president, Dr. Charles Jean Bernard (Switzerland); vice-presidents, Mr. Harold J. Coolidge (U.S.A.), Mr. Henry G. Maurice (United Kingdom), and Prof. Roger Heim (France); members, Dr. Boze Benzon (Denmark) ICPB, Dr. Nils Dahlbeck (Sweden), Prof. Walery Goetel (Poland), Dr. J. K. van der Haagen (Netherlands), Prof. H. Humbert (France), Prof. V. Van Straelen (Belgium), Dr. Vellard (Peru), Prof. Renzo Videsott (Italy), Mr. William Vogt (U.S.A.), and Dr. José Yepes (Argentina); secretary-general, Mr. Jean-Paul Harroy (Belgium).

All inquiries should be addressed to the secretary-general at the office of the Union, 21 Rue Montoyer, Brussels, Belgium.—H. J. C.

Correction: In the article on "Natural Resources Problems in Japan," by Lt. Col. Hubert G. Schenck (*Science*, October 8, pp. 367-372), the last sentence of paragraph 2, page 369, should read: "Production has been increased from the 1945 level of 4,000,000,000-5,000,000,000 pounds to more than 7,000,000,000 pounds which is about as much as the present fishing area can support." In the article the pounds were erroneously given in millions instead of billions.

Make Plans for—

In last week's issue (p. 642) we erroneously reported that the **Mycological Society of America**, the **Botanical Society of America, Inc.**, and the **American Society of Plant Physiologists** were scheduled to hold meetings in December of this year. The next annual meetings of these societies are scheduled to be held in 1949 in connection with the **AAAS meetings in New York City**. We regret that this error occurred.

Gerontological Society, January 8-9, Hotel Commodore, New York City.