

author and by Alvin Seale. More than 300 species of Pacific marine fishes have been cast and colored from life by J. W. Thompson and described by Bryan and Seale. Of land snails in the islands there appears to be an endless variety, certainly more than 400 forms, and the Museum has them by the hundred thousand. These have been arranged and many new forms described by C. M. Cooke. The collection of marine shells have all been determined by W. H. Dall.

Clearly this is a good beginning toward the gathering of data looking to the solution of the problems of the Pacific Ocean.

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### SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

#### COTTON RESEARCH IN LANCASHIRE

THE British Cotton-growing Research Association has issued a report covering the first nine months of its work. According to an abstract in the London *Times* actual research work has as yet scarcely begun. Dr. A. W. Crossley, the director of research, was not free to leave the University of London until Easter. The council and director agree that the association's researches will achieve success in proportion to the extent to which they are organized on a cooperative basis, the workers in the several sciences directing their efforts towards the solution of a common problem. In order that the various departments should all be working at one center, a property, known as The Towers, has been acquired at East Didsbury, a Manchester suburb, and the council is about to issue a special building fund appeal for £250,000. The next step anticipated by the council is the appointment of heads of departments on the subjects of chemistry, physics, colloids, botany and technology. Dr. A. E. Oxley, of Cambridge and Sheffield Universities, has been appointed head of the physics department, and Dr. J. C. Withers, of the chemical department, St. Thomas's, London, has been appointed to direct the abstracting and indexing of scientific and technical information in the records bureau. It is stated that information is so scattered that it will be some time before a comprehensive idea can be

given of the work accomplished in the past. The report adds that the chief aim will be to arrive at the principles or theory underlying the practise of the industry, leaving the application of the theory to those actively engaged in the industry. Applied research can not, however, be entirely omitted, especially in respect of such matters as may be considered beyond the resources of individual firms.

In cooperation with the Empire Cotton-growing Committee a joint committee has been appointed, with the immediate object of granting scholarships to graduate students, so as to secure a supply of trained men for the future. Three botanical research studentships have already been established. The total number of individual members of the association is 1,408. The income for the year, including £6,750 government grant, amounts to £17,150.

#### THE BRITISH SCIENCE GUILD

*Nature* reports the annual meeting of the British Science Guild held in London on June 8. Lord Sydenham, the president, in his address on "Science and the nation," discussed industrial problems, due partly to an abnormal state of mind arising from the war, but originally fostered by the industrial changes of the last century, namely, the general use of machinery, rendering labor monotonous and leaving less room for the individual skill of the craftsman, and the formation of large companies, whereby the personal touch between master and man was lost. In the latter portion of his address Lord Sydenham emphasized the importance of a more general knowledge of science, especially amongst members of the government and the Civil Service, and alluded to the efforts made by the Guild in the dissemination of scientific knowledge and methods. He concluded by quoting Goethe's saying that "there is no more dreadful sight than ignorance in action."

The president-elect, Lord Montagu, of Beaulieu, then delivered an address on "Some national aspects of transport," and afterwards occupied the chair. Lord Montagu remarked upon the growing difficulties of railways, which, although subsidized by the state, were