

the various laboratories and individuals working on contact catalysis was pointed out by Chairman Bancroft, and as a result a Committee on Contact Catalysis was appointed, with W. D. Bancroft as chairman.

A report on the publication of critical tables of physical and chemical constants was presented by H. K. Moore. The council approved the suggestion that a special agent be employed to devote his entire time to the solicitation of funds for this publication. Thereupon H. E. Howe was appointed a fourth member of the board of trustees; W. D. Bancroft and C. E. Mendenhall was authorized to pay for the drawing up of a preliminary plan for the scientific organization of the tables, as a concrete basis for obtaining subscriptions.

Dr. Cottrell was appointed to draw up a resolution in support of the Patent bill, with instructions to forward the resolution to the Patent Office committee of the National Research Council for such action as it saw fit to take.

THE PERMANENT FUNDS OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

THE *Auk* states that from time to time the union has established several permanent funds for special purposes. In every case the principal with such contributions as may be received is invested so as to remain intact and the interest only is used for furthering the objects of the fund. The most important of these funds are: the Brewster Memorial Fund, the Research Fund, and the Publication Fund.

The Brewster Memorial Fund, the most recent, is the gift of the friends of William Brewster to perpetuate the memory of one of the founders and former presidents of the union by establishing a fund to encourage research in American ornithology. The sum of \$5,200 received in 1919, has already increased to some extent and the proceeds will be awarded biennially in the form of a medal and an honorarium to the author of the most important contribution to the ornithology of the Western Hemisphere during the two years immediately preceding. This fund is administered by a special committee and the first award will be made in 1921.

The Research Fund was established some years ago by a gift from Miss Juliette A. Owen, of St. Joseph, Mo., one of the Life Associates of the Union, to encourage original research in ornithology. It now amounts to several hundred dollars but the interest will not be available until the total amount reaches \$5,000. It is highly desirable that this fund should be increased at an early date so that the proceeds may become available for promoting ornithological work. Already applications have been received for assistance in special investigations which would be greatly stimulated if small grants could be made from this or some similar fund.

The publication fund comprises receipts from life memberships, bequests and special contributions. In *The Auk* for January, 1920, the editor has called attention to the immediate need of a fund of \$25,000, and in response to this appeal subscriptions of several hundred dollars in sums of \$100 or less have already been received. The editor of *The Auk* says that not only is an adequate fund necessary to place the publication of the journal on a permanent basis and to issue check-lists, indexes and special bibliographies, but means should be provided also for publishing occasional memoirs, monographs and more extensive papers than have hitherto been attempted. At this time when the usual channels of publication are becoming restricted on account of the high cost of printing it is especially desirable that the American Ornithologists' Union should be in a position to meet the demands which are made upon it. As its permanent funds increase the union will be able to broaden the scope of its work and to make more substantial contributions both to the development and diffusion of knowledge of ornithology.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. W. W. CAMPBELL, director of the Lick Observatory, has been elected a foreign honorary fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

DR. L. HEKTOEN, director of the John McCormick Institute for Infectious Diseases,