

The income from this fund is to be entirely devoted to variable star research, none of it being required for "overhead" or for equipment. Through an arrangement with Professor Pickering's successor, Dr. Harlow Shapley, Harvard College Observatory is to put the second floor of its library building at the disposal of the A. A. V. S. O. for its offices, and is to allow the use of one of the domes on the observatory grounds to house the largest telescope owned by the association, that recently acquired through the generous gift of Mrs. C. A. Post of Bayport, L. I.

Professor Pickering was so well known to members of the A. A. A. S. and to readers of SCIENCE that it is felt that many will wish to contribute to such a worthy cause as the Edward C. Pickering Memorial. Contributions should be sent to Wm. Tyler Olcott, Norwich, Conn., or to Leon Campbell, Harvard College Observatory, Cambridge, Mass.

S. A. MITCHELL

J. D. MITCHELL

MR. J. D. MITCHELL died at Victoria, Texas, on February 27, 1922.

Some years ago when the writer was about to go to Texas for the first time, he made the rounds of a number of scientific offices at Washington to obtain such information as he could about the natural history of Texas. Wherever he went, whether to entomologists, ornithologists, ichthyologists or botanists, the same advice was given. That was to go to Victoria and see Mr. J. D. Mitchell. A man whose knowledge had made such a deep impression upon the leaders in several departments of science must certainly have been in some degree remarkable.

At Mr. Mitchell's house in Victoria he had large collections of animals of all classes. From day to day the house was visited by ranchmen, doctors, school children and others to ask about various points connected with natural history. Thus, technical men as well as persons from the ordinary walks of life were alike influenced by the learning of the man.

Mr. Mitchell lived for a good portion of his life on a cattle ranch on the coast of

Texas. His love of natural history was inherited from his mother, who had extensive knowledge of the plants of Texas and their practical uses. Later he moved to Victoria where circumstances gave him an opportunity to devote most of his time to work on natural history. In 1904 he became connected with the Bureau of Entomology and made important contributions to several of the larger southern problems like those of the cotton boll weevil and the cattle tick. In fact, his pioneer work on the cattle tick was an important factor in the notable project of eradication which has now permanently removed the pest from more than three fourths of its original range in the United States.

Mr. Mitchell had no technical training. He was an example of the vanishing type of devoted naturalists who pursue the subject out of pure love for nature. He never described a new species. Although he collaborated on many publications of the Bureau of Entomology, he published only one paper, dealing with the poisonous snakes of Texas. Nevertheless, it is fitting that this note about his career should be published in this journal. He was a fountain of accurate information for technical men and was a modest, patient and painstaking imparter of knowledge. His life showed the enjoyment which comes from the contact with nature and was thus an inspiration to others.

W. D. HUNTER

HOUSTON, TEXAS

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

ANNUAL TABLES OF CONSTANTS

THE confederation of French scientific societies has renewed for the year 1922 its contribution of 40,000 francs in support of Annual Tables. The total subscription in France to this project during the year 1921 was 80,000 francs.

At the approaching meeting of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry which is to be held at Lyons in June, the matter of organizing the work of Annual Tables upon a solid financial basis will come up for consideration. This important international project has had a very precarious existence