

representatives named above, who are in close touch with the Committee on Special Arrangements. Secretaries of associated organizations and of sections of the association are asked to correspond with the local representatives of their respective sections when taking up arrangements for hotel headquarters, dinners, meeting places, lanterns, etc. For organizations that are not specially related to any section of the association these arrangements are to be made through correspondence with the assistant secretary, Dr. Francis D. Murnaghan, who is to be addressed at the Washington office.

The general hotel headquarters for the meeting will be the New Willard Hotel, Pennsylvania Avenue and Fourteenth Street N. W. It is probable that some associated societies will have other hotel headquarters. A list of Washington hotels and their prices will be published later in *SCIENCE* and in the Preliminary Announcement of the meeting, which will be sent, as usual, to all members on or before December 1.

Reduced railway rates on the certificate plan have been granted to those attending the Washington meeting from all parts of the United States and from points in Canada, east of and including Armstrong, Fort William and Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. The certificate plan is the same as that followed for recent meetings.

It is hoped that the publicity feature of the Washington meeting will be handled even more efficiently than has been done at recent meetings of the association. The newspapers are prepared to give much space to science, and the association will do its best to furnish facilities by which representatives of the press may readily secure reliable information and may interview the men of science on their work. The subcommittee on publicity will again have the helpful cooperation of Science Service, as in recent years.

All persons who are to read papers or present addresses at the Washington meeting will aid the advance and the popularization of science very much if they will be sure to prepare *two copies* of a summary or abstract of each paper, sending one to Austin H. Clark, publicity chairman, U. S. National Museum, and the other to the editor of Science Service, Building of the National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D. C. These summaries should be sent in as early as possible. We hope for advanced summaries of all the papers given this year.

The member who made possible the thousand-dollar prize awarded at the Cincinnati meeting has very generously provided funds for a similar prize to be awarded at the fifth Washington meeting, and at the four subsequent annual meetings. The Washington prize will be awarded to the author of a noteworthy contribution to the advancement of science, presented

in the programs of the association and associated organizations.

The fifth Washington meeting will be large and well attended, and plans are being made for many program features that will well represent the present status of American scientific work and scientific thought. An exhibition of new scientific apparatus, methods, books and products is being arranged. It is hoped that individuals as well as firms will exhibit. General plans for the exhibition are in charge of Dr. Chas. A. Shull, Botany Building, the University of Chicago. Prospective exhibitors are asked to correspond with him in this regard.

The opening session of the fifth Washington meeting will occur on the evening of Monday, December 29, at which Dr. Charles D. Walcott, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, will deliver the retiring presidential address. It is hoped that the President of the United States will address the association and associated societies at the opening session. On Tuesday evening, December 30, will occur the usual joint session of the American Association and the Society of Sigma Xi, and the session by Dr. Frederick Fuller Russell, general director of the International Health Board. On Wednesday evening, December 31, a general session will be addressed by the eminent British astronomer, Arthur Stanley Eddington, Plumian professor of astronomy in Cambridge University and director of the Cambridge Observatory. His subject will be "Relativity."

BURTON E. LIVINGSTON,  
*Permanent Secretary.*

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE PAN-PACIFIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE

THE Castle home, in Honolulu, with four acres of surrounding land, is to become the home of a Pan-Pacific scientific research institute. The property is to be used solely as a college of graduates. The assistant students will, it is expected, attend the University of Hawaii, where they will take their degrees.

The gift will be used as the nucleus of the Pan-Pacific University, for which a charter was granted some years ago. This will be a graduate university chiefly for research work. Probably a Pan-Pacific research college or institute will be granted a license by the incorporators of the Pan-Pacific University to begin work at once with a trusteeship of five scientists of Pacific races who will proceed with the organization of the research institute.

The chief work of the Pan-Pacific Research Institute will be along lines of research study of food resources of Pacific lands and of the ocean itself. It will be entirely a Pan-Pacific institute connected with no other body but cooperating with kindred bodies in all Pacific lands. It will be neither American, Ha-

waiian nor Japanese, but governed by scientists from all Pacific regions.

Conferences are being held with the heads of several delegations already there from Pacific lands, and cable invitations have been sent to others to hurry on and take part in the deliberations as to the work the institute shall undertake for the peoples of the Pacific area.

The scientists who have been for some months planning the Pan-Pacific Research Institute will make a report at the coming conference, and it is understood that the institute will begin operations at once, offering its services for the years of follow-up work needed in making the resolutions passed at the coming conference effective.

The Castle home is one of the largest in Honolulu, amply housing two score workers, with one extra out-building almost as large, which is excellently planned for laboratory uses. In addition there are several smaller buildings, four acres of ground, a complete set of concrete tanks and water supply sufficient for laboratory purposes. The buildings could house, beside the permanent staff, some forty visiting research scientists.

According to press dispatches, Dr. David Starr Jordan, chancellor emeritus of Stanford University, has tentatively accepted the directorship of the institute.

#### THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY'S CHINA EXPEDITION

JOSEPH F. ROCK, head of the National Geographic Society's expedition into Yunnan, southwestern Szechuan and southeastern Tibet, has just returned to this country after eighteen months in the field and reported the finding of aboriginal tribes in China practicing religious ceremonies which existed before Buddhism was introduced into either China or Tibet.

Mr. Rock found a blight-resistant chestnut tree, made observations over considerable unmapped territory, traversed a hitherto unexplored Yangtze River gorge which in places is much deeper than the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, and brought back important plant and bird collections.

The expedition's collection of herbarium specimens approximated some 60,000 sheets representing some 12,000 numbers. These plants were collected in the extreme northwest of Yunnan, Tsarong, southeastern Tibet, the independent Lama Kingdom of Mili and also in eastern Yunnan. The birds collected number about 1,600. These have been carefully skinned and prepared and labeled, and scientific data accompanies each specimen. They are from regions where few collections had previously been made. The collection contains land and water birds and in addition a few hundred mammals. The birds and mammals will be

presented to the Smithsonian Institution as a gift from the National Geographic Society.

Chestnuts of apparently immune species have been presented to the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Plant Industry. In addition a fine set of coniferous plants such as firs, spruces, hemlocks, pines and junipers were turned over to the Department of Agriculture. A large collection of seeds of rhododendrons also was forwarded to the department. Seeds of 493 kinds of rhododendron were sent to the department, by far the largest single introduction ever made into this country.

Mr. Rock's chestnuts include several species heretofore unknown to the horticultural world and perhaps even to botanical science. The chestnut introduction is of great interest to the tanning industry which has depended upon chestnut to a great extent and has recently faced the possibility of this supply being destroyed through the ravages of blight.

Mr. Rock's plant specimens were forwarded from time to time and rhododendrons also have been sent to Kew Gardens, to Edinburgh, Scotland, and to the Honorable Vicary Gibbs and A. K. Bulley, both of England, amateurs who specialize in these plants and whose collections are famous. In the United States some of them already have been planted at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, in the Puget Sound Region and along the eastern seaboard. Further distributions are to be made in this country.

Gentians, primroses and other alpine plants, of which sets were sent by Mr. Rock, will be of great interest to gardeners in this country and in Europe. Some of these sets also have been sent to botanical gardens and plantmen in Great Britain.

#### THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

THE centennial celebration of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the oldest college of science and engineering in any English-speaking country, will take place at Troy, New York, on October 3 and 4. There will be present official delegates from educational institutions, scientific organizations and engineering societies throughout the world as well as from each alumni association and from each class since 1857. The program as thus far arranged is as follows:

OCTOBER 3

*Morning:* Academic Procession.

Convocation. Addresses by:

Hon. Herbert Hoover, secretary of commerce of the United States.

Hon. Alfred E. Smith, governor of the State of New York.

Hon. Harry E. Clinton, mayor of Troy.