

Such a committee should also have some jurisdiction over the systematic units, especially genera and species. The constant multiplication of these is much more subversive of uniformity and stability than the mere changing of names.<sup>2</sup> Even the specialist finds it sufficiently discouraging to have to remember two or more names for the same unit, but when the unit is also wiped out, whether it be genus or species, by the superficial methods of current segregation, the result is chaos. If the units thus produced were a consequence of thorough field and experimental study and were capable of practical application, the values obtained might outweigh the confusion introduced, but this is practically never the case, and a bad situation is made worse by the complete neglect of evolutionary and phylogenetic values, which should be paramount in any taxonomy worthy the name. The best usage of conservative taxonomists since the time of Linnaeus affords the only possible basis for making mycology of definite and far-reaching service and for converting it into a real science based upon evolution and relationship.

Unless it adopts these objectives as its own, systematic mycology with its perpetual changing of names and its futile splitting and duplication of genera and species will fall into even greater disfavor and will continue to be ignored by general botanists and specialists in other lines of plant science and to be regarded with apathy by student and amateur alike. If those who regard the best usage as a feasible basis will support the plan suggested, order may yet be brought out of the present chaos of names and units, and the time and energy of mycologists can be devoted to the many basic problems that are in such great need of thoroughgoing research.

C. L. SHEAR

F. E. CLEMENTS

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### EXPEDITION TO CENTRAL AMERICA TO STUDY THE HOOKWORM DISEASE

PLANS have been completed for a research expedition to Central America under the leadership of Dr. W. W. Cort, professor of helminthology at the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, for the purpose of improving control measures used in combating the hookworm disease. The expedition is part of a program of cooperation which is being carried out between the department of medical zoology at Hopkins and the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation.

<sup>2</sup> F. E. Clements, "Research Methods in Ecology," p. 12, 1905; "Ecologic View of the Species Concept," *Am. Nat.*, 42: 253, 1908. H. M. Hall and F. E. Clements, "Phylogenetic Method in Taxonomy," p. 2, 1923.

This year's commission to Central America will be divided into two groups, one of which will go to Panama and the other to Nicaragua. One group, which will sail from New Orleans about the first week in June, will consist of Dr. D. L. Augustine, assistant professor of helminthology at Harvard University, and Dr. W. A. Riley, professor of animal biology at the University of Minnesota. The other group, which will leave New York for Nicaragua the latter part of May, will consist of Dr. N. R. Stoll, associate in helminthology in the Johns Hopkins department of medical zoology; Harold Brown, assistant in helminthology at Hopkins, and Dr. Maurice C. Hall, chief of the zoological division of the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry.

Dr. Cort will divide his time between the two groups so as to coordinate the work.

This expedition will be the fourth taken under Dr. Cort's direction. In 1921 a commission was sent to the Island of Trinidad, in the British West Indies, by the Rockefeller Foundation, to make a scientific study of diseased localities there. The following year Porto Rico was the chosen field of investigation, and in 1923 a commission was sent to China, where fourteen months were spent in research work.

In both Nicaragua and Panama, the commission will be assisted in its work by officers of the health department, a number of local physicians, and staffs of native technicians trained in campaigns against disease.

The two parties of investigators will continue their work throughout the summer and will return early in October.

### NATIONAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS IN THE BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

THE Board of National Research Fellowships in the biological sciences, at its recent meeting on February 27, made the following appointments and reappointments for the year 1926-27:

#### REAPPOINTMENTS

J. N. Couch—Botany  
 W. N. Ezekiel—Botany  
 H. W. Feldman—Zoology  
 T. N. Jenkins—Psychology  
 M. F. Metfessel—Psychology  
 Nellie M. Payne—Zoology  
 A. M. Showalter—Botany  
 Lee E. Travis—Psychology  
 Mildred Trotter—Anthropology  
 Conway Zirkle—Botany

#### NEW APPOINTMENTS

C. Dale Beers—Zoology  
 David Brunswick—Psychology  
 Kenneth Cole—Biophysics