wet- and dry-bulb resistance-thermometer equipment with recording galvanometer for three stations at masthead, cross-tree and meteorological screen are to be installed.

The first leg of the cruise will be to Plymouth, England, where the vessel will arrive about the end of May. After a call at Hamburg the next ports of call will be at Iceland, at Barbados and at the Canal Zone (about the end of October, 1928). The balance of the cruise will cover the North Pacific, South Pacific, South Atlantic, Indian and North Atlantic oceans, and is planned to include ports of call at Easter Island, Callao, Papeete, Apia, Guam, Yokohama, San Francisco, Honolulu, Apia, Lyttelton, South Georgia, St. Helena, Cape Town, Colombo, St. Paul, Fremantle, Lyttelton, Rapa Island, Buenos Aires, St. Helena, Ponta Delgada, Madeira and Washington, D. C. (about September, 1931).

The preparations for this cruise have had generous cooperation and expert advice on all sides from interested governmental and private organizations and individuals both in America and Europe, who have also either loaned or presented much of the special oceanographic equipment and many books for the reference-library on board. Among these the Carnegie Institution of Washington is indebted to the following: United State Navy Department, including particularly its Hydrographic Office, Naval Research Laboratory, Signal Corps and Air Corps of the War Department, Coast Guard, National Museum, Bureau of Fisheries, Weather Bureau and Coast and Geodetic Survey; Scripps Institution of Oceanography of the University of California; Museum of Comparative Zoology of Harvard University; School of Geography of Clark University; American Radio Relay League; Geophysical Institute, Bergen, Norway; Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom, Plymouth, England; German Atlantic Expedition of the *Meteor,* Institut für Meereskunde, Berlin, Germany; British Admiralty, London; Carlsberg Laboratorium, Bureau International pour l'exploration de la Mer, and Laboratoire Hydrographique, Copenhagen, Denmark, and many others. Dr. H. U. Sverdrup, of the Geophysical Institute at Bergen, Norway, research associate of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, is consulting oceanographer and physicist.

J. A. FLEMING

DEPARTMENT OF TERRESTRIAL MAGNETISM,
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HARRIS HAWTHORNE WILDER

DR. H. H. WILDER, professor of zoology in Smith College since 1892, died suddenly in Northampton, Monday afternoon, February 27, 1928.

Dr. Wilder was born in Bangor, Maine, April 7, 1864, the son and only child of Solon Wilder, a musical director, and Sarah Smith Wilder, the daughter of a physician. In 1886 he graduated from Amherst College with the degree of A.B. He took the classical course in college, and the thorough grounding he received in Latin and Greek had an important influence upon his development as a scholar; the literary character of his scientific writings was throughout his life essentially scholarly. John M. Tyler was the professor of zoology at that time in Amherst, and his teaching and example were other powerful factors in the moulding of Wilder's tastes and habits of mind, in that they served to strengthen and develop a love for the natural sciences which had shown itself in him while still a young child and throughout his boyhood. After graduation he taught biology in one of the Chicago high schools for three years, and then, the impulse to make a special study of zoology and especially anatomy having become too strong to be longer resisted, he went abroad to pursue these subjects under Wiedersheim in the University of Freiburg. It was the beneficent influence of John Tyler, who had himself studied in Germany, which again became active in his interest and guided Wilder to Wiedersheim's laboratory.

His two-years' study-period with Wiedersheim and Weismann in Freiburg made a professional zoologist of Wilder, and gave him the technical and intellectual foundation and background of all his later work. He took the degree of Ph.D., *summa cum laude,* there in 1891. A mark of the breadth of his intellectual interests was the choice of medieval English as one of the minor subjects of his examination.

It was in Freiburg that Wilder's attention was first directed to anatomical studies in the Amphibia. This field of research was Wiedersheim's own special interest, in which he had first made his reputation as a comparative anatomist, and with his accustomed generosity towards his pupils he gave Wilder valuable material from his private collections for special study, while the latter was still a student under him.

The results of these researches were published in the *Zoologische Jahrbücher* in Wilder's first two papers, "Die Nasengegend von Menopoma," etc., and "A Contribution to the Anatomy of Siren lacertina." The skill with which he executed delicate dissections, his insight and often intuition in the interpretation of obscure anatomical structures, and the rare artistic talent shown in his drawings were all in evidence in these early productions. His interest in amphibian anatomy, thus auspiciously aroused, continued throughout his lifetime; his numerous contributions in this field of research and those of his colleagues

and pupils have been of great importance and have made his laboratory in Smith College known throughout the world as one of the most important centers of amphibian studies.

On his return to America in 1891 Wilder taught again for a year in Chicago, and then, through the influence of John Tyler, was appointed professor of zoology in Smith College.

The following year, in 1893, Wilder caused a genuine sensation among zoologists by the publication in the *Anatomischer Anzeiger* of "Lunglose Salamandriden," in which he shows that in one family of common salamanders both lungs and gills are entirely wanting in the adult animal. This important and very surprising fact had not been observed or suspected up to that time, although these animals had been studied by numerous investigators both in America and Europe. The outstanding student of Amphibia in America at that time was the veteran comparative anatomist, Edward Drinker Cope, who, when shown Wilder's paper, scoffed at it, saying he had been dissecting salamanders most of his life and had always found lungs in them. He was mistaken, however, as to the large family of the Plethodontidae, which have none.

About 1897 Wilder began to interest himself in the epidermic markings on the palms and soles of primates and especially the friction ridges of the human hand and foot. This development was quite in line with his general interest in human anatomy, which had been active in him from a very early period. In fact, while still a high-school teacher in Chicago he had done human dissecting on the side, and during his first year in Freiburg he had joined the medical students in their anatomy courses and made a complete dissection of the human subject. His studies of palms and soles broadened and developed as time went on, and his numerous contributions to the subject, together with those of his colleagues and pupils, and especially his wife, have been of fundamental importance in this field of research.

The comparison of the palms and soles of the two members of pairs of human twins led Wilder into the field of teratology, and in 1904 and 1908, respectively, there appeared in the *Journal of Anatomy* his important papers, "Duplicate Twins and Double Monsters" and "The Morphology of Cosmobia." Similar studies, as well as his interest in human anatomy, also took him into the field of physical anthropology, which he cultivated during his latter years. In 1920 he published the first American text-book on the subject, "A Manual of Anthropology."

Wilder's grasp of the details of both human and comparative anatomy as well as of anthropology, the philosophic cast of his mind and the originality of his genius, and also the command of a facile English style have been productive of several treatises of importance: "The History of the Human Body," 1910 and 1923; "Personal Identification" (with B. Wentworth), 1918; "Man's Prehistoric Past," 1923; and "The Pedigree of the Human Race," 1926.

Of these books the first and last named are perhaps the most important. They are both outstanding works of pronounced originality, which will long be standard authorities on the matters of which they treat. The "History of the Human Body" is a comparative anatomy of man, written especially for medical students but also for an educated laity. It is a philosophy of human structure, and is distinguished in so eminent a degree by adequacy and breadth of treatment, by clearness of exposition and by facility of expression that it has become a classic in its field. And "The Pedigree of the Human Race" is probably a work of equal merit, although it is of too recent publication to have had its appeal to an interested public fully tested.

Wilder's publications comprise seven published books and some thirty-nine papers which have appeared in scientific journals. He was a member of the following scientific societies: American Society of Naturalists, American Society of Zoologists, Boston Society of Natural History, Association of American Anatomists, American Anthropological Association, International Association for Identification, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Société des Sciences, Agriculture et Arts du Bas-Rhin, and the Galton Society.

On July 26, 1906, Wilder took the most important step in his career when he married Inez Whipple, who had been for several years an instructor in his department. The partnership thus formed was an ideal one from every point of view. Mrs. Wilder, who was also, and still is, a productive zoologist, had similar scientific proclivities to his own and carried on her researches in similar fields; consequently, although she and her husband conducted their scientific activities independently of each other and worked on different problems, they could give each other mutually the assistance and support which their closely related interests made possible.

In other and still more important ways also was Wilder's marriage fortunate; it ensured to him a congenial and happy home life, and enabled him to indulge his love of society and of familiar social intercourse with his friends and pupils. It also provided him with a companion for his travels. Both he and his wife were very fond of travel, and they made many trips together to distant countries. Less than a year ago they returned from a trip around the world which had occupied the greater part of a

year. With Wilder, however, travel was not primarily a matter of sightseeing; he always felt that the most interesting and profitable aspect of it was the experience of meeting and knowing congenial people of other nationalities and races, and learning their point of view by actually living so far as possible, if only for a brief time, in their environment and manner. Thus he made numerous interesting contacts and warm friendships with scientific men and others in many parts of the world. As shown by the general tenor of the "Pedigree of the Human Race" he had developed a profound appreciation of the common humanity of all races and a belief in similar potentialities of all for intellectual and spiritual achievement.

The general public knows a scientific man by his published works and by his achievements in his chosen field of research, and H. H. Wilder will be long remembered. His family and friends, however, will think rather of other things when they look back on their association with him. They will remember the sweetness of his disposition, his modesty and gentleness, his gaiety and love of fun, the brightness of his wit and the brilliancy of his talk and his self-effacement when rewards and honors were being distributed. The many generations of Smith College students who sat under his teaching will recall the enthusiasm for his courses which he inspired in them, his vital concern for their welfare and progress and especially his hospitable home, where he loved to entertain and amuse them.

H. S. PRATT

HAVERFORD COLLEGE

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE SECRETARIES' CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION AND AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

AT the second Toronto meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in December, 1921, was inaugurated a conference of the secretaries of sections and societies, together with members of the executive committee and some of the officers. A similar conference has been held in connection with each subsequent meeting of the association. Recently this conference has become organized as a standing committee of the association under the direction of the secretaries of sections and societies. Under the new plan the organization is permanent and is to be known as the Secretaries' Conference. It is planned that there shall be one or more sessions of the conference at each annual meeting and that the work of the conference will be carried on by correspondence in the interim.

The secretaries of the sections and societies are directly concerned with the details of arranging programs, rooms and the like, and they should be familiar with the needs of their own science groups. Efforts will be made by correspondence to determine some of the problems and questions which need study, and these will be made the topics for discussion at future sessions. It is expected that each secretary of a section or of a society will indicate modifications that seem desirable to make his sessions more successful, and that he will suggest possible changes that promise to lead to more satisfactory arrangements and procedure in general. There are numerous details which must be taken up anew each year by the local committees for the annual meeting and the combined experiences of the secretaries should be very valuable to the local committees as well as to the Washington office of the association. There might well be worked out by the secretaries' conference a series of directions to guide future committees in their work on arrangements for the meetings.

Some of the questions recently discussed in sessions of the secretaries' conference will give an idea of the problems which are still more or less unsolved. How may the scientific men themselves become better acquainted with the problems and work in other fields than their own? Will joint sessions or general papers on border-line questions be helpful? How may the interrelationships of different fields be presented to the general public so as to stimulate interest and support? How may room assignments be made to bring together related groups? How may the methods be improved for handling railway certificates, and facilitating the getting of return railway tickets and Pullman accommodations? What can be done to improve the procedure followed in making the award of the annual American Association prize? Can plans be worked out to develop the scientific side of the annual exhibition? Is there any way to reduce the great complexities that are more or less inherent in meetings of so many societies and groups?

It is hoped that some of these, or similar questions, may be arranged for study, report and discussion at the next session of the secretaries' conference in New York City next winter. The members of the conference will cooperate in this, and will welcome suggestions from others. The secretaries' conference might well become a sort of clearing-house for the consideration of the problems and questions arising in connection with the annual meetings of our scientific societies. Notes and suggestions may be addressed to the conference secretary.

GEORGE T. HARGITT,

Secretary of the Secretaries' Conference

LYMAN HALL, SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY,

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