

for scientific studies have been made of selected groups and forwarded to workers in several institutions in the United States, Canada, England, Holland, Germany, France, Russia, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. Another large collection is at Buitenzorg, Java, with 15,000 samples of Dutch East Indian woods. There are also large collections in the Philippines, India, Federated Malay States, as well as in European countries, and hundreds of samples have already been distributed for special research.

The Yale Forestry School is trying the experiment of providing small subventions for local collectors in tropical countries and is said to be meeting with marked success. Over 300 timber samples have recently been received as the result of a local expedition into the high mountain range near Santa Marta, Colombia. The Lower Amazon region is being explored by Dr. Alphonso Ducke, of the Botanical Garden of Rio de Janeiro. Dr. A. Rimbach is collecting in the interior of Ecuador, a locality almost unknown to the outside world. A good collection of woods has been made for the first time on Mt. Kinabalu in British North Borneo. The most recent expedition is that of Mr. J. H. L. Waterhouse, of Australia, who is collecting on the British Solomon Islands Protectorate. This undertaking is in cooperation with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England, and has the sanction of the high commissioner for the Western Pacific and the resident commissioner at Tulagi. There are, in addition, many local collectors in out-of-the-way places in the tropics.

The first step toward uniformity of botanical terms has been the making of a dictionary, now undergoing its second revision, which is in English, French, German, Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese and Polish. This will be made the basis for a book in which every term will be fully illustrated and described.

#### GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED FOREST LANDS

THE merging in one department of all federal agencies and auxiliary services administering government owned or controlled forest lands has been recommended by an advisory subcommittee of the U. S. Timber Conservation Board headed by Dr. Henry S. Graves, dean of the School of Forestry of Yale University. According to a statement issued by the board, the principal recommendations are:

Merging in one undesignated department the several administrations of federally-owned or controlled forest lands, together with all auxiliary services pertaining thereto.

The abolishment of the present system of paying to counties a percentage of the National Forest receipts, substituting therefor direct contribution to be ad-

justed, in a degree, to local needs. This is to be paid annually and such procedures should possibly be helpful in improving state forest taxation methods.

Extreme conservatism in public timber disposal, apparently recognizing the principle that publicly owned timber is a reserve supply to be drawn on only as required to advance public interest, local and national.

Steps to harmonize federal forest acquisition and administration and to promote sound controls thereunder.

Cooperative study by government and states of problems of tax delinquency in critical regions where forestry protection is threatened. This may suggest either public acquisition or the use of public timber supply to extend the operations of private concerns toward the continuance of local community interests.

#### THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS

THE annual meeting of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers was held at Ohio State University from June 20 to 23. A symposium on "An Engineer's Policy for Agriculture" was a feature of the meeting. The president of the society, Leonard J. Fletcher, of Peoria, Illinois, general supervisor of agricultural sales of the Caterpillar Tractor Company, presided. The speakers were C. F. Kettering, of Detroit, president of the General Motors Research Corporation; J. T. Jardine, chief of the Office of Experiment Stations, U. S. Department of Agriculture, and Arthur Huntington, public relations engineer of the Iowa Railway and Light Corporation. Several hundred engineers, economists, farm leaders and scientific men from universities, technical schools, the industries and state and federal services participated.

The convention opened with sessions of the college division. Among the speakers were R. J. Baldwin and George Amundson of Michigan State College; Ben D. Moses, of the California Agricultural Experiment Station, and R. W. Trullinger, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The topics discussed included cooperative relations with industries, agricultural engineering teaching, agricultural engineering research, agricultural engineering extension, relations with vocational education, and logical future development of research in agricultural engineering.

Dr. George W. Rightmire, president of the university, addressed the delegates on Tuesday morning and Mr. Fletcher delivered the annual presidential address. Other addresses included "Adventures in Science" by Dr. L. A. Hawkins, of the Research Laboratories of the General Electric Company; "Fuels for High-Compression Motors," by Thomas Midgley, Jr., a director of the American Chemical Society; "An Agricultural