

the United States Department of Agriculture since 1911, engaged in corn investigations, and has been in charge of research work in this field since 1922. In this position he has made the corn investigational program entirely cooperative with the state experiment stations and has earned a reputation for ability in organizing effective cooperative research. He is the author of numerous publications and papers on corn growing, corn breeding and statistical methods.

In his new position, Dr. Kellerman will be able to devote his full time to plant disease work, a field in which he has been an outstanding leader for 20 years. Among numerous other activities, he organized in 1915, and has since directed, the cooperative campaign of the Gulf States and the Bureau of Plant Industry to eradicate citrus canker, one of the most contagious of all known diseases of citrus trees; his success in the citrus canker campaign is universally recognized as one of the most notable achievements ever recorded in disease eradication work.

Karl Frederic Kellerman was born of American parents in Göttingen, December 9, 1879. He received the degree of bachelor of science from Cornell University in 1900 and doctor of science from Kansas State College in 1923. He was an assistant professor in botany, Cornell University, 1900-1901; assistant physiologist, Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, 1901-1904; physiologist in charge of laboratory plant physiology, 1905-1906; physiologist in charge of soil bacteriology and water purification investigations, 1906-1914; assistant chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, 1914-1917, and associate chief of bureau since 1917. Dr. Kellerman organized the *Journal of Agricultural Research* in 1913 and was chairman of the editorial committee from 1913-1924. In 1917 he was designated by President Wilson as a member of the National Research Council, serving as secretary of the agricultural committee, and since 1918 as a member of the division of biology and agriculture and of the division of federal relations.

SEMI-CENTENNIAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

THE Semi-Centennial Meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, held in the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, from November 13 to 16, was the largest in the history of the union. Representatives were present from twenty-one states, the District of Columbia and three Provinces of Canada. Headquarters were at the Hotel New Yorker, where the business sessions were held. The public sessions were held in the museum. In connection with this meeting the union issued a memorial volume entitled "Fifty Years Progress of American Ornithology." An exhibit of "Birds in Art," numbering more

than 300 entries, was installed in the education hall of the museum.

Officers for 1934 were elected as follows: *President*, J. H. Fleming; *Vice-presidents*, A. C. Bent, Taunton, Mass., and Herbert Friedmann, Washington, D. C.; *Secretary*, T. S. Palmer, Washington, D. C.; *Treasurer*, W. L. McAtee, Washington, D. C.; *Additional Members of the Council*, A. A. Allen, J. P. Chapin, Ruthven Deane, H. C. Oberholser, J. L. Peters, T. S. Roberts and P. A. Taverner.

The election of fellows and members included 1 fellow, John T. Zimmer, of New York; 3 corresponding fellows; 9 members, and 167 associates. The new corresponding fellows were Dr. J. M. Derscheid, Brussels, Belgium; Dr. Franz Groebels, Hamburg, Eggenhof, Germany, and Dr. Pontus Palmgren, Helsingfors, Finland. The new members elected were M. A. Carriker, Beachwood, N. J.; S. T. Danforth, Mayaguez, P. R.; R. M. de Schauensee, Philadelphia, Pa.; J. O. Greenway, Jr., Cambridge, Mass.; J. M. Linsdale, Berkeley, Calif.; A. H. Miller, Berkeley, Calif.; J. D. Soper, Alberta, Canada; C. A. Urner, Elizabeth, N. J., and Francis M. Weston, Pensacola, Fla.

The Brewster Medal for the most meritorious work on American birds published during the last six years was awarded to Dr. Frank Michler Chapman for his "Birds of Eastern North America," 1932.

On Friday and Saturday trips were made to various points of interest, including Jones Beach Bird Sanctuary, Oyster Bay and Montauk, L. I.; the New York Zoological Park, and Barnegat Bay, N. J. More than 100 species of birds were observed at Jones Beach, Montauk and Barnegat Bay.

The next meeting will be held at the Field Museum in Chicago in October, 1934.

T. S. PALMER,
Secretary

SEMI-CENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NATURALISTS

IN the month of March, 1883, Professor Samuel F. Clarke, of Williams College, issued a call for an association of American naturalists principally for the discussion of practical methods of technique and education, modified by the following addendum:

It is further believed that such a society could materially influence for the better the cause of science in America; that it would have a very healthful general effect, and could exert a strong influence in many directions where at present it seems to be very much needed.

Of the fourteen naturalists who had expressed to Professor Clarke an interest in this enterprise, at least eleven appeared at the organization meeting in the Springfield High School Hall, Friday, April 10, in the year 1883, namely: Samuel F. Clarke, of Williams College; Alpheus Hyatt, of the Boston Society

of Natural History and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; William T. Sedgwick, of the Massachusetts Institute; Charles S. Minot, of the Harvard Medical School; A. S. Packard, Jr., of Providence; William N. Rice, of Wesleyan University; J. M. Tylor, of Amherst; J. H. Pillsbury, of Springfield; H. N. Martin, of the Johns Hopkins University; Henry F. Osborn, of Princeton, and William B. Scott, of Princeton.

At first embracing geology and paleontology, as well as botany, zoology and physiology, the Society of Naturalists gradually drifted away from its original purposes, became an annual congress chiefly for the presentation and discussion of the most recent phases of zoological and biological research, but of late years has had as its objective "the association of working naturalists or biologists for discussing and correlating the broader problems of organic evolution with particular emphasis upon border-line fields of fundamental biology." The meetings are sometimes independent, but more often coordinated with those of many other biological associations of cognate purpose.

Of the original membership there appear to be only seven survivors, all of whom have been elected honorary members of the society, namely: Henry H. Donaldson, of Philadelphia; Simon H. Gage, of Ithaca; Samuel Henshaw, of Cambridge; C. Hart Merriam, of Washington; Henry Fairfield Osborn, of New York; William B. Scott, of Princeton, and Edmund B. Wilson, of New York.

A semi-centennial program has been arranged for the approaching Boston meeting. It will be presented on Saturday afternoon and evening, December 30. At the afternoon session the American Society of Naturalists will be joined by the American Society of Zoologists, the Botanical Society of America and the Genetics Society of America, and the session will be held in the auditorium of the New Lecture Hall, Harvard University. A symposium on "Biology and Society" will be presented, at which Dr. S. H. Gage, of Cornell University, who is one of the surviving original members of the American Society of Naturalists, will preside as honorary chairman. The symposium speakers will be Professor W. M. Wheeler, of Harvard University; Dr. E. A. Hooton, of Harvard University, and Dr. F. H. Hankins, of Smith College. Their respective topics will be: "Animal Societies," "Primitive Human Societies" and "Development of Modern Social Organizations." On Saturday evening the annual dinner of the American Society of Naturalists will be held in the Statler Hotel, which is designated as headquarters for the society. Following the dinner, Dr. E. G. Conklin, of Princeton University, will give an anniversary address

on "Fifty Years of the American Society of Naturalists." This will be followed by the retiring presidential address, given by Dr. Burton E. Livingston, of the Johns Hopkins University, who will speak on "Environments."

Members of the American Society of Naturalists are specially invited to attend the William Thompson Sedgwick Memorial Lecture, presented under the auspices of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, at 5 o'clock on Friday afternoon, December 29, this date being appropriately the seventy-eighth anniversary of the birthday of Professor Sedgwick. This memorial lecture will be given in the large Lecture Hall, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The lecturer will be Professor Henry Fairfield Osborn, whose subject will be "Aristogenesis, the Creative Principle in the Origin of Species." Professor Osborn's address will be a sequel to one given by him at the ninth meeting of the American Society of Naturalists, held in 1890, also in Boston, on a topic of paramount interest at that time, namely, "Are Acquired Variations Inherited?" That earlier address may be read in the *American Naturalist*, for March, 1891.

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

THE Local Committee for the Boston meeting wishes to call the attention of members of the association to some of the arrangements that have been made for the entertainment of visiting members, and especially to events that are scheduled for Wednesday, December 27. It is hoped that the great majority of those coming to Boston may plan their arrival so that they may be registered at Memorial Hall, Cambridge, or at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in time to participate in affairs which have been arranged for the afternoon.

Special attention is drawn to a concert by the Boston Symphony Orchestra. The Local Committee takes great pleasure in announcing that it has been able to arrange for a special Symphony Concert, in honor of the visiting members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. This has been made possible through the cooperation of Dr. Serge Koussevitzky, the conductor, and the directors of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. This concert will be held at Symphony Hall, corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Huntington Avenue, on Wednesday afternoon, December 27, from 4 to 5 o'clock. Doors close promptly at 4:00. Admission is only by special ticket, which can be obtained at registration headquarters of the association at Memorial Hall, Cambridge, or at the subsidiary registration desk in the