

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

main lobby of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The reputation of the Boston Symphony Orchestra guarantees a concert of the highest quality, and the local committee hopes that a large audience will be present.

Two other events of Wednesday afternoon are offered for the entertainment of visitors. Both of these are scheduled for the 2 to 3 hour in order that they may not conflict with the concert. Dr. H. E. Ives will give an illustrated lecture on "Scientific Simplification of the Artists' Palette," at the New Lecture Hall, Harvard University (across the street from Memorial Hall).

At Huntington Hall, Rogers Building, 491 Boylston Street, Boston, Dr. Charles H. Tozier will present a "Demonstration of the Value of Color Photography in Teaching All Branches of Natural Science." This demonstration will be a showing of lantern slides prepared by the use of color photography. The subjects chosen for illustration include minerals, rock-sections, geological formations, corals, birds, fish, and other zoological material, trees, flowers, etc. Of special interest will be slides made from histological sections of both normal and pathological tissues as seen under high magnification, even by the use of the oil immersion lens.

It is believed that this is the first public showing of these slides demonstrating histological structures and staining reactions, in which the colors are reproduced with extreme fidelity and accuracy. This demonstration will be of exceptional interest to teachers of the natural sciences and to research workers in microscopic anatomy.

The Rogers Building houses the Department of Architecture of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. It is adjacent to the Boston Society of Natural History, the collections of which may easily be visited before or after this demonstration.

The scientific exhibits arranged in connection with this meeting of the association are in Memorial Hall, Cambridge, and will be open for inspection from Wednesday morning throughout the week.

Members of the association attending the meetings in Boston will find supplementary transportation

service from the various Boston hotels to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University as follows:

From Hotels Bradford, Statler, Brunswick, Westminster, Copley-Plaza and Lenox, special bus service will be provided. Trips will be run from the Bradford, at 8:30, 8:45, 9:00, 9:15, 1:00, 1:15 and 1:30. These buses will stop at the Statler near the corner of Arlington Street and St. James Avenue three minutes later, in front of the Public Library, Copley Square, six minutes later than the above times. They are scheduled to arrive at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology twenty minutes after the starting time and at Harvard (Memorial Hall) twenty-seven minutes after the starting time.

Return service will be provided from Memorial Hall at 3:15 only on Wednesday for Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Symphony Hall, Public Library, Hotel Statler and Hotel Bradford. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday buses will leave Memorial Hall at 12:15, 12:30, 12:45, 4:45, 5:00, 5:15 for Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Public Library, Hotel Statler and Hotel Bradford. The leaving times from Massachusetts Institute of Technology will be seven minutes later for each trip.

A fare of ten cents for transportation in either direction will be collected when leaving the buses at Massachusetts Institute of Technology or Harvard University on the outbound trips and when boarding the buses on the inbound trips.

Members staying at the Buckminster or Kenmore Hotels can board an inbound subway car at Kenmore Station and change at Massachusetts Station, going upstairs for a surface car marked "Harvard" and alight at Massachusetts Institute of Technology or Harvard Square, as desired. Members registering at the Parker House or the Bellevue can most conveniently take Cambridge-bound subway trains at Park Street. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology is about seven minutes' walk from Kendall Station. The Harvard Square subway station is about three minutes' walk from Memorial Hall.

S. C. PRESCOTT,

*Chairman, Local Committee*

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Medal of the Southern Medical Association for notable achievements in research was awarded to Dr. Wm. de B. MacNider, Kenan research professor of pharmacology in the University of North Carolina, at the recent annual meeting of the association held at Richmond, Virginia.

THE Royal Meteorological Society has awarded the Symons Gold Medal for 1934 to Sir Gilbert T. Walker.

The medal is awarded biennially for distinguished work in connection with meteorological science and will be presented at the annual general meeting of the society on January 17.

THE Buckston Browne Prize Essay of the Harveian Society of London has been awarded to Dr. Lionel S. Penrose, for his essay on "The Influence of Heredity in Disease."