

sion composed of the minister of public instruction, the minister of public health, the Confédération des syndicats médicaux, and the ministers of war, the navy department and the colonies. The selection would be made in two stages, the first at the end of the preparatory studies leading to the premedical diploma in physics, chemistry and biology, which affords entrance to the facultés de médecine, and the second after completion of the first year of study in the facultés de médecine. Only the number of holders of the premedical diplomas, as fixed by the ministerial commission, plus 50 per cent., would be admitted to the facultés de médecine, and this additional 50 per cent. would be eliminated at the end of the first year of medical study. This regulation would concern only candidates for the government diploma, which grants the right to practice medicine in France (and in Rumania). As to the students enrolled for a university diploma, a degree much sought by foreigners, no limitation will be placed on their number; but the later transformation of a university diploma into a state diploma will be made more difficult and will be brought into harmony with the number of state diplomas fixed by the projected legislation.

#### THE PROPOSED MIGRATORY BIRD RESERVE IN THE NORTHERN SAND HILLS OF NEBRASKA

ACCORDING to the New York *Sun*, a migratory bird reserve will be laid out in the northern sand hills of Nebraska by the Federal Government at the cost of a million dollars, the object being to provide a resting and nesting place for wild ducks, wild geese and other birds migrating between the Mexican gulf district and western Canada. One of the artificial lakes which will be constructed will cover more than 30,000 acres.

The sand hills comprise a strip of land, about one hundred miles wide, running from South Dakota southward almost to the Platte River. Very little vegetation grows except in the small valleys between the hills, and even in these valleys grass is practically all that is produced. There are many small lakes of cool, clear, pure water, caused by filtration of rain through the sand. A number of these small lakes are to be included in the federal game reserve, and the government agents have concluded an arrangement with the Nebraska State Game Commission under the terms of which state laws on fishing will not be interfered with when the property becomes a part of the federal reserve.

Nebraska is the stopping point for the birds between their winter feeding grounds along the Gulf and their summer breeding grounds in western Canada. Nebraska has more miles of rivers and flowing streams than any of the forty-eight states of the

Union, and in both spring and fall these streams are simply covered with the migrating fowl.

The 30,000-acre lake will be formed by damming the Snake River, which passes through the reserve from west to east. This is not the Snake River of Idaho and Oregon, but a different and a smaller stream which flows into the Niobrara River. The proposed reserve is mostly in Cherry County, Nebraska. The land is not very valuable. One ranch of about 10,000 acres is being taken over by the government at \$8 an acre. This ranch will be entirely covered by water when the big dam is completed. Other lands are worth \$4 and \$5 an acre.

The shortage of water in the last few years has lowered the water table in this district and many of the lakes are now but a fraction of their usual size, while the marshes are now pretty well dry. Water from the Snake River dam will be turned into these smaller lakes by connecting canals, and they, as well as the marshes, will be brought back to normal.

J. C. Salyer, director of the migratory waterfowl program of the U. S. Biological Survey, is at the head of the government staff working on the project. Other government officials on the work are the chief agricultural engineer, the chief acquisition officer, the principal duck food biologist and the program's coordinator for Nebraska and South Dakota.

#### RESEARCH IN DENTAL MEDICINE AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY

SEVEN research men in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, the Medical School and the Dental School of Harvard University have been appointed by President James B. Conant members of a University Committee on Research in Dental Medicine.

In recognition of the fact that modern dental research is intimately bound up with and dependent upon research and expert knowledge in the fields of chemistry, biology and medicine, the committee has been given general supervision over research in the Dental School. Its province will be trifold: to promote important dental research; to act as a clearing house for such of that research as is important to other fields; and to provide official contacts through which the Dental School can readily get assistance for its research problems that overlap the other departments.

The committee consists of Elmer P. Kohler, professor of chemistry; Alfred C. Redfield, professor of physiology and director of the Biological Laboratories; Simeon B. Wolbach, Shattuck professor of pathological anatomy, and consulting pathologist to the Cancer Commission of Harvard University; Walter B. Cannon, George Higginson professor of physiology; Percy R. Howe, Thomas Alexander Forsyth