H. T. Malloy and K. A. Evelyn, McGill University: On the determination of bile in blood, using the new photo-electric colorimeter. B. Schachter, University of Toronto: Purification of the gonadotropic substance in human pregnancy urine. Drs. D. L. Selby and R. W. I. Urquhart, University of Toronto: on the effect of experimental unilateral nephrosis on the secretion of urine. Dr. S. Weinstein, University of Toronto: An attempt to crystalize prolan. Drs. R. F. Wilkinson and R. G. MacKenzie, University of Toronto: A clinical study of the prevention of thrombosis in man by means of heparin. R. J. Wilson, University of British Columbia: A study of the type of staphylococcus which produces food poisoning in man. Dr. B. Chown, University of Manitoba: On some types of kidney disease which are probably due to an excess of mineral secretion. Dr. D. Beall, University of Toronto: An attempt to introduce an amino group in oestrone and oestrodiol. Dr. G. H. Ettinger, Queen's University: An endeavor to account for the large amount of acetylcholine contained in the placenta. E. J. Reedman, University of Toronto: On free and combined vitamin C.

V. E. HENDERSON
A. W. HAM
Honorary Secretaries

CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MONUMENT

BY proclamation of President Roosevelt, two of the Channel Islands, off the coast of southern California, have been transferred from the Bureau of Lighthouses of the Department of Commerce to the Department of the Interior, to be established as a national monument by the National Park Service.

Five islands are included in the Channel Islands group, which were discovered in 1542 by the Portuguese navigator, Juan Rodriques Cabrillo, whose remains are buried on San Miguel. The two now given national monument status are Santa Barbara and Anacapa. The latter is in reality three small islands, but these lie so nearly in a straight line, with such narrow channels between them, that they have long been considered as a single island. Combined length of the three is approximately four and a half miles, with a maximum width of about half a mile. High sea cliffs, almost perpendicular, are characteristic of the Anacapa group, with numerous wave-cut caves eroded into their forbidding declivities. The highest elevation is 980 feet. Santa Barbara's length is one and a half miles; its maximum width, one mile. There are so few breaks in its bold, precipitous shores that but one landing place is possible, and that is accessible only in mild weather. Except for two hills, one 547 feet in elevation, the top of the island is a comparatively flat expanse, bordered by steep cliffs.

The monument has been established to conserve the unique geological and biological features of the two islands. Both present fascinating geologic stories; both consist largely of volcanic rocks of the Miocene age. In some places three distinct elevated beaches are clearly defined by terraces along the high cliffs. In these a wealth of fossils has been found, ranging from marine invertebrates to Pleistocene elephants and fossil trees.

More than eight endemic flowering plants, some thirty endemic mammals or birds, and sixteen land mollusks add further to the scientific fascination of the two islands. As research reserves, available for study, the islands will not for the present require any development.

THE ENDOWMENT OF THE BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

THE Rockefeller Foundation has made a conditional grant of $1,500,000 to the University of Chicago for the endowment of research in the biological sciences on condition that an additional sum of $500,000 can be obtained from outside sources before June 30, 1941.

During the next three years the foundation will provide $180,000, at the rate of not more than $60,000 a year, for biological research. This grant has been made so that the equivalent of the income of the capital sum of $1,500,000 will be available to the university during the period allowed for raising the matching sum of $500,000. Should the university be able to meet the condition in a shorter period, the temporary annual grants will be cancelled. Since 1929 the foundation has provided grants for the support of basic laboratory research in fundamental biological problems. The endowment will support permanently this work on a somewhat larger scale than in the past.

Dr. Robert Maynard Hutchins, president of the university, made a statement in which he said:

> Because this grant is one that is vital to the university's research in the cause and treatment of disease, we shall make every effort to secure the matching funds from friends of the university.
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> Fundamental research in the biological sciences must be carried on to achieve systematic advance in medicine. When the General Education Board gave us $3,000,000 in December, 1936, to develop our Medical School, it specifically recognized this relationship.
>
> The university's clinical work, conducted for research purposes, is in close cooperation with the natural sciences departments. We recently appointed an eminent physicist, Dr. James Franck, to a professorship in physical chemistry to study a biological problem. Medical research at the university to-day is a cooperative enterprise reaching from the hospitals into such remote fields as botany. The offer of the foundation, therefore, is of great importance to our program.

Many of the investigators at the university and much of its important research work have been supported in part by the annual grants of the foundation