

native biotic communities as soon as civilized man and his satellites put in an appearance and proceed to upset the ancient balance. The list of organisms that have become extinct within the historic period fairly bulges with the names of astonishing island birds, from the dodo of Mauritius to the mamo of Hawaii. All the peculiar land birds of Tristan da Cunha Island, in the South Atlantic, have become extirpated since the introduction of hogs and rats. The remnant of the fauna of Tahiti is waging a rapidly losing struggle against domestic mammals, alien hawks, mynahs and weavers that have become established there, and against the wild-fire spread of lantana and other weeds that have already dispossessed much of the original vegetation. The same story is being repeated elsewhere; primitive conditions that may have flourished for a million years melt away when men of the dominant races, whether white or yellow, arrive to break the spell.

Experimentalists are understandably impatient of data beyond reach of their breeding tests. But we should remember that the present age of experiment will some day be combined with an age of fuller correlation, when the inconceivably rich mine of factual matter now buried in the text of ten thousand outdated books will be drawn upon, and when zoological collections, no less than zoological literature, will be combed for now ignored truths that can then be properly fitted into the picture of life as a whole. We museum men collect and preserve not only with respect to our individual scientific predilections; rather, we may be said to share some of the characteristics of devoted librarians. We feel a heavy responsibility to lay up, while opportunity offers, a capital sum of the irreplaceable data of science, even though part of this fortune may not begin to bear interest at its proper rate for a long while to come.¹⁰

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

RESEARCH GRANTS OF THE VIRGINIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

THE Research Committee of the Virginia Academy of Science met on November 5 to make the regular awards for the encouragement of scientific research in Virginia. It had available for distribution \$450, which included the \$100 from the American Association for the Advancement of Science. It had in hand sixteen applications for grants amounting to \$1,200. After long and careful consideration of each request the following awards were finally made:

To Professor James I. Clower, of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, \$50 provided the Virginia Polytechnic Institute would supply an equal amount for the purchase of a Robinson colorimeter for use in his study of lubricating oils in automobiles.

To Dr. J. Frank Hall and Dr. R. L. Simpson, of the Medical College of Virginia, \$50 to be used in the purchase of animals and other supplies in their study of the changes in the abutment teeth and their surrounding tissues brought about by the additional stress applied through crown and bridge restorations.

To Dr. C. W. Lampson and Dr. A. I. Whitenfish, of the University of Richmond, \$60 provided the University of Richmond would supply a similar amount needed for the purchase of a special condenser needed in their study of the dielectric constant as a factor in the "salting out" of non-electrolytes.

To Dr. M. J. Murray and Dr. F. F. Cleveland, of Lynchburg College, \$97.50 to be used for the purchase of apparatus and supplies needed in their study of the Raman effect and molecular structure.

To Dr. A. A. Pegau, of the University of Virginia, \$50 to help to defray the expenses in mapping an unmapped portion of the Petersburg granite, chiefly in Dinwiddie County.

To L. B. Snoddy, of the University of Virginia, \$90 to help to defray expenses in the study of the luminous discharge in the aurora borealis as a function of time.

To M. A. Stirewalt and F. F. Ferguson, of the University of Virginia, \$50 to help to defray their expenses in a study of the occurrence, distribution, taxonomy and physiology of the Turbellaria of the eastern United States.

Dr. J. Shelton Horsley, Sr., reported that the amount of the research fund had now been brought up to \$13,000, and consequently the amount available for distribution next year should be correspondingly larger.

E. C. L. MILLER,
Secretary

CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDUSTRY OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MANUFACTURERS

A THREE-DAY Congress of American Industry opened in New York City on December 7. At this meeting the report was presented of the joint committee of leading industrialists and scientific men that was established last year to study increasing production and employment through wider use of scientific research in industry. A considerable part of the session held on December 8 was devoted to it. The chairman of the committee is M. H. Eisenhart, president of the Bausch and Lomb Optical Company, Rochester, N. Y.

The activities to be undertaken by the committee with relation to industrial research include:

¹⁰ The author wishes to express his appreciation of the privilege of discussing the genetic aspects of this paper with Dr. G. K. Noble and with Professors T. H. Morgan and Richard Goldschmidt.