

(3) It is also understood that, in the case of an individual subscribing to *more than one section*, he may designate the appropriate societies to which each section subscription will be credited.

It is further understood that this plan does not supersede existing plans for support, such as direct subsidy of \$2.00 a member by the American Society of Zoologists, but that it may be supplementary to such plans. As a further aid to individual biologists the costs of sectional subscriptions have been reduced in some cases.

It is hoped that many societies will take advantage of the opportunity to render this greater service to their membership. It is requested that a committee of interested members be appointed by each biological society to handle the matter. Further information on this plan, or a sample copy of a section, may be secured by addressing the Business Manager, *Biological Abstracts*, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE UNION OF AMERICAN BIOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

THE annual meeting of the Council of the Union of American Biological Societies will be held in the Colonial Room of the Neil House, Columbus, at 4:00 P.M. on the afternoon of Thursday, December 28, 1939. It is hoped that all representatives to the council will make a special effort to attend this meeting, since matters of more than ordinary interest will come up for consideration.

There will be a brief report by the editor-in-chief of *Biological Abstracts*, Dr. John E. Flynn. This will include a summary of the financial situation, the effect of the war and plans for Volume 14 (1940).

Dr. Riddle, as chairman of the Union's Committee on Biological Science Teaching, reports that the committee has continued its efforts to enroll greater numbers of high-school teachers in the National Association of Biology Teachers, which this committee sponsored and founded last year. In various ways individual members of the committee, as well as Dr. D. V. Miller, committee representative, have supported the new journal—*The American Biology Teacher*. Professor E. W. Sinnott became a member of this committee in July of this year, other members being Drs. E. V. Cowdry, F. L. Fitzpatrick, H. B. Glass and B. C. Gruenberg. During recent months the committee has given much care to the preparation of a questionnaire dealing with conditions affecting the teaching of biology in our secondary schools. This questionnaire was mailed in late November and early December to nearly 15,000 high-school teachers in 48 states. The results of this inquiry will guide and determine the committee's future efforts. The

work of this year, like that of 1938, was financed through funds made available by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

It is also planned to consider an amendment to the constitution of the union which will make possible a second type of membership, namely, "individual membership." It is hoped that the representatives of the various member societies will be prepared to consider this matter carefully.

GEORGE W. HUNTER, III,
Secretary

AWARD OF THE PENROSE MEDAL OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

PROFESSOR WILLIAM BERRYMAN SCOTT, of Princeton University, has been named by the Council of The Geological Society of America as the Penrose Medalist for 1939. The gold medal will be presented on December 29 at the fifty-second annual meeting of the society at Minneapolis.

The Penrose Medal was established in 1927 for the Geological Society by the late Dr. R. A. F. Penrose, to be awarded, under the terms of the deed of gift, "in recognition of eminent research in pure geology" and "of outstanding original contribution or achievements which mark a decided advance in the science of geology."

Professor Scott is the eleventh geologist to receive this medal. Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1855 and now retired from active teaching, he was for fifty years Blair professor of geology and vertebrate paleontology at Princeton University. In the words of the Committee on Penrose Medal Award of the Geological Society,

he is generally regarded as the leading American student of the Tertiary mammal faunas of the western hemisphere, with particular reference to their historical development and migrations. A familiarity with these problems led him also to a fruitful study of the principles of evolution. His many years of exploration of the Tertiary deposits in western United States and collaboration with Hatcher and others in Patagonia have resulted in more than fifty monographs as well as several comprehensive books. His wide range of interests is also indicated by his authorship of an excellent general text-book of geology.

The importance and quality of his scientific attainments have been recognized by the award of honorary degrees from the Universities of Pennsylvania, Harvard, Oxford and Princeton, by medals from the Geographical Society of Philadelphia, the Geological Society of London, the National Academy of Sciences, the Academy of Natural Sciences, and by his election to the presidencies of the Paleontological Society, the American Philosophical Society and the Geological Society of America.

In nominating Professor Scott as Penrose Medalist for 1939 the committee on the Penrose Medal Award stated that "The award of the Penrose Medal to Pro-