

In his desire to accomplish and serve he never spared himself and he asked the best and most energetic efforts, likewise, of those who served with him. He achieved much and the people of Florida and the nation have benefited from his labors.

HAROLD MOWRY

FLORIDA EXPERIMENT STATION

### DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

AUGUST BUSCK, who served in the U. S. Department of Agriculture for more than forty-five years as specialist in Microlepidoptera, died on March 7 at the age of seventy-four years.

DR. MARGARET E. MALTBY, associate professor of

physics, retired, of Barnard College, Columbia University, died on May 3 at the age of eighty-three years.

DR. LIONEL ROBERT WILBERFORCE, professor of physics at the University of Liverpool from 1900 until his retirement in 1935 with the title emeritus, died on April 1 at the age of eighty-two years.

THE Smithsonian Institution, Washington, has been given a portrait of the late Dr. George Washington Carver. The presentation was made on May 2 by Vice-President Wallace.

A RESOLUTION to designate February 11 of each year as Thomas Alva Edison Day in commemoration of his birthday was introduced in the Senate on May 2.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM

In his report on the condition and operation of the U. S. National Museum for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1943, Dr. Alexander Wetmore, director of the U. S. National Museum, states that appropriations for the maintenance and operation of the museum for the year amounted to \$892,630, which was \$61,652 more than for the previous year.

Although there has been a decrease in the total number of visitors to the museum below that normal for times of peace, the number recorded, 1,355,269, indicates the great interest that exists in the exhibits. The change in hours to allow the public halls to be open all day Sunday has permitted many people to visit the buildings whose time schedules would not have otherwise made such visits possible. This is particularly true of service men and women, about 2,000 of whom have been included among the visitors each week end.

Last year's report described steps taken for the adequate safeguard of collections. These precautions have gone forward, and a program of training has been initiated among groups of employees for the protection of visitors, employees and the various buildings. Air-raid alarm systems have been installed, fire-fighting, air-raid and first-aid equipment procured, air-raid shelters designated, and complete black-out facilities where necessary established. Practice air-raid drills were held, both in cooperation with the District of Columbia and independently of the city-wide drills.

Throughout the year members of the staff have been occupied with work connected with the conduct of the war, either through direct contact with various war agencies or through the Ethnogeographic Board. This has included "spot" information in various fields, research and experiment. The variety of these subjects is indicated by the following enumeration of some of

the items on which data were requested: Camouflage plants; natural vegetation of specific regions; illustrations of poisonous plants and of emergency food plants and data regarding them; destruction and mosquito-harboring epiphytes; distribution of certain plants of known economic importance; botanical exploration; the palatability of the flesh of land, freshwater and marine animals, their use for food and methods of capture; the serviceability of hides and skins for various purposes; disease transmission; noxious, poisonous or otherwise dangerous animals; intermediate hosts of animal and human parasites; aid in the preparation of survival manuals and other military and naval handbooks; distributional lists of insects and other animals of medical importance; outlines for insect surveys in foreign areas; instruction in mosquito identification; collection and preservation of specimens, especially those of medical importance; supplying duplicate sets of insect material not otherwise readily obtainable for the use of Army and Navy medical schools; biological and oceanographic problems; marine fouling organisms; bibliographic surveys; recommendations regarding personnel.

Assistance has been given in the identification of tribal culture patterns chiefly of the island peoples of the West Pacific area and of continental southeastern Asia. Other information provided, in this instance obtained from museum photographic files, related to the need of our aviators and soldiers to recognize religious caste markings, and, to assist in the orientation of aviators, the types of house construction in various parts of southern Asia. A mass of information directly based on the collections was given to such agencies as the Board of Economic Warfare and the War Production Board, bearing directly on the development of the use of substitute materials for civilian use. Various articles describing the more remote

peoples and their cultures were prepared and published.

The museum collections were increased by 230,231 specimens, which were included in 1,177 separate accessions. Because of wartime conditions a decrease of 211 accessions, 54,351 specimens, in comparison with the number received during the previous year, was not unexpected. The five departments registered specimens received as follows: Anthropology, 2,514; biology, 213,823; geology, 9,725; engineering and industries, 2,266; and history, 1,902. Most of the accessions were acquired as gifts from individuals or as a transfer of specimens by government departments.

#### THE NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF CHEMISTRY TEACHERS

THE sixth annual summer conference of the New England Association of Chemistry Teachers will be held from August 24 to 28 at Connecticut College, New London. The program will include a symposium on oxidation-reduction and papers on recent developments in various fields of chemistry. Consideration will also be given to post-war teaching problems in the sciences.

Although the summer conferences are held primarily for the benefit of members of the association any one interested will be welcome. Connecticut College, a privately endowed liberal arts college for women, opened for study in 1915. It is situated on a hill-top overlooking the town of New London, Long Island Sound, the Thames River and the hills of eastern Connecticut. A spacious campus surrounding modern granite buildings is supplemented by a hundred-acre arboretum with lake and out-of-door theater. Ocean Beach Park, a new recreation and bathing beach conducted by the City of New London, can be reached in twenty minutes by convenient bus service.

New London is situated midway between New York and Boston on the Shore Line of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad; excellent roads from several directions are available to those able to go by automobile, and bus service is frequent. The summer session of the college will be in progress during the period of the meeting.

Details concerning fees will be published in the June issue of the *Journal of Chemical Education* and the complete program will appear in the July issue. All communications concerning the conference should be addressed to the secretary, Miss Helen Crawley, 45 Lawton Road, Needham, Mass.

#### ACQUISITION OF A BIRD COLLECTION BY THE NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM

THE section of zoology of the New York State Museum in Albany on April 15 acquired through purchase a notable collection of birds. The collection

consists of 390 study skins representing 165 species and subspecies collected principally in Lewis County, New York, by the late James H. Miller, of Lowville. A few of the species represented were taken in Connecticut and Florida.

Mr. Miller, who died in November, 1943, was one of the collaborators of the late Professor E. H. Eaton in the preparation of his notable study of "Birds of New York" (New York State Museum Memoir 12, Part 1, 1910; Part 2, 1914). For that publication Mr. Miller contributed many records, photographs and other data. This information was supplied in part through the specimens which he collected in Lewis County and which comprise the bulk of the recently acquired collection.

Most of the skins were prepared by Mr. Miller and are beautifully done. Each specimen bears collecting and other data on the specially printed tags which he designed. The birds were taken between the inclusive dates 1881 and 1916 and are in an excellent state of preservation.

In addition to the specimens themselves, the museum has come into possession of the oak storage cabinet in which they were housed and which Mr. Miller made with his own hands; also his handwritten catalogue pertaining to the collection, an abbreviated journal relating to certain of his ornithological observations in the Lowville area and a few other incidental items.

Among the rarer New York State specimens in this collection are three Canada spruce grouse, a golden eagle, two Brunnich's murres, a great gray owl and two northern ravens. Several interesting seasonal and distributional records also are confirmed by specimens, as are other features of ornithological interest.

The collection in question is of considerable importance and value to ornithologists of the northeastern states generally and to those of New York State in particular. It provides tangible data of scientific, historical and sentimental value. Its final resting place in the State Museum could not have been more appropriately chosen.

A complete annotated list of the material in this collection is in course of preparation and in due time will be made available to those who may be interested.

DAYTON STONER,  
*State Zoologist of New York*

#### THE ANNUAL SESSION OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association for May 6 prints the program for the ninety-fourth annual session of the association to be held in Chicago from June 12 to 16 under the presidency of Dr. Herman L. Kretschmer, professor of urology at the Rush Medical College. Editorial comments in the *Journal*