

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*

on important events of the meeting read in part as follows:

The program indicates the great advance that has been made by medical science in recent years. Panel discussions on tropical medicine, chemotherapy, plasma and neuropsychiatry, already arranged for the general scientific meetings, emphasize these chief lines of interest.

The very first paper scheduled for the section on practice of medicine deals with penicillin. Additional manuscripts cover current topics, such as rheumatic fever, and there is a panel discussion on vitamins, amino acids and enzymes. In the Section on Surgery the use of surgical technics in hypertension and new technics related to methods of suture are featured. The opening session of the Section on Obstetrics is concerned with problems of pregnancy, but attention is given also to new studies with hormones and to complications related to the bladder. A symposium on penicillin features the Section on Laryngology, and one on rheumatic fever appears in the Section on Pediatrics. Unusual is the symposium on the abuse of rest in the treatment of disease, scheduled for the Section on Experimental Medicine. Prominent in the program on nervous and mental diseases is the panel discussion on operational fatigue in combat air crews. All the newer investigations in the intensive and modern treatment of syphilis are included in a full session of the Section on Dermatology and Syphilology; in these discussions the investigators who have been doing most of the work for the Office of Scientific Research and Development are cooperating. New attitudes in industrial medicine and a consideration of the relocation of physicians in the postwar period are listed for the Section on Preventive and Industrial Medicine and Public Health. In the Section on Urology the new advances in the treatment of cancer of the prostate are noted, and in the Section on Orthopedic Surgery space is provided for the report of the committee which is making a joint investigation of the Kenny technic. The Section on Anesthesiology gives opportunity to hear the last word on continuous caudal analgesia. Especially interesting also are the sessions of the Section on Miscellaneous Topics, devoted on this occasion to the interests of the general practitioner.

The scientific exhibit and the other usual features of the annual session will be up to the standard of peacetime and will be high-lighted as well by the interests associated with the needs of war. Attention is called to the motion picture theater, which will offer continuously from the first day the latest demonstrations utilizing visual education.

A specially arranged feature for this session is the war meeting planned for Wednesday night, June 14, at the Medinah Temple. This program will include not only the Surgeons General and other distinguished representatives of our own armed forces but also representatives of some of the United Nations.

The sessions of the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association will begin on Monday, June 12.

IN HONOR OF ALEXANDER PETRUNKEVITCH

Two hundred colleagues and former students of Dr. Alexander Petrunkevitch, since 1917 professor of zoology at Yale University, a well-known authority on spiders, who will retire this June after serving for thirty-four years on the faculty of the university, were present at a meeting held in his honor on May 3 at the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences.

The surprise gathering was held at 8 o'clock P.M. in the Osborn Zoological Laboratory. The speakers included Edgar S. Furniss, provost of the university, and Charles H. Warren, professor of mineralogy and dean of the Sheffield Scientific School; George Vernadsky, research associate in history of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences; Dr. Lorande L. Woodruff, professor of protozoology; Dr. Roger B. Friend, lecturer in forest entomology, a former student; and Dr. Ross G. Harrison, Sterling professor of zoology, emeritus, director of the National Research Council.

Dr. Petrunkevitch was presented with two bound volumes containing forty-three manuscripts on history, arachnology, experimental zoology and general zoology, prepared by his colleagues and former students, now scattered throughout the world.

Several of the papers, by leading arachnologists from England, Brazil and Tasmania, as well as from all parts of the United States, contain accounts of new species of spiders which have been named in his honor.

The volumes include a portrait by Stanley C. Ball, associate professor of biology, an appreciation by Professor Woodruff and an account of the life and works of Dr. Petrunkevitch by G. Evelyn Hutchinson, associate professor of biology.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE University of Rochester will at its commencement on May 14 confer honorary degrees on Joseph W. Barker, dean of engineering at Columbia University and special assistant to the Secretary of the Navy in formulating policies on all Navy college-training programs, and on Dr. George W. Corner, director of the department of embryology at Baltimore of the

Carnegie Institution of Washington. Dr. Corner was for sixteen years professor of anatomy at the School of Medicine of the University of Rochester.

THE University of Wisconsin will confer the degree of doctor of science on Dr. Jesse T. Littleton, physicist, assistant director of research and development