

Association, The Chinese Standards Committee, The Association Française de Normalisation, The British Standards Institution, The New Zealand Standards Institute, The South African Standards Institution, The American Standards Association.

It is anticipated that representatives from practically all the countries will attend.

A full program of the detailed discussions to be undertaken at the meeting will be announced at an early date. In a general way, however, it can be said that the meeting will concern itself with the immediate problem of establishing the closest practical relations between the national standardizing bodies of the countries of the world; with the providing a forum through which these bodies can harmonize their activities internationally, and finally the meeting will deal with the major problem of integrating national standards and harmonizing them for the benefit of the total economy of the world.

THE MOENKOPI FORMATION OF NORTHERN ARIZONA

At a meeting held in Flagstaff in the first week of July, an agreement was reached between the Museum of Vertebrate Paleontology of the University of California and the Museum of Northern Arizona for a joint cooperative study of the Moenkopi Formation of northern Arizona. In an announcement made by Dr. Harold S. Colton, director of the local museum, it is stated that the program of research will be conducted over a period of several years, and that the work done this summer is in the nature of reconnaissance. The meeting was attended by Dr. Sam Welles and Dr. Lyman Daugherty, of the Museum of Vertebrate Paleontology, and by Dr. Colton and E. D. McKee, of the Museum of Northern Arizona.

According to the announcement issued by the museum, "the Moenkopi formation is composed largely of red sandstone and shale with some limestone and gypsum. It covers the surface of the Plateau over wide areas, especially east and north of Flagstaff, where it lends color to the Painted Desert. Formed originally on a desert flood plain where streams deposited their sediments along the margins of an ancient sea that covered Nevada and parts of Utah, these rocks contain the bones of many peculiar and primitive animals, especially reptiles and amphibians. Inasmuch as this formation was formed at a critical period in the history of life and the earliest types of mammals appeared at that time, its study is believed to have considerable importance."

Excavation and examination of the skeletal remains will be done largely by Dr. Welles, who is an authority on the subject. Mr. McKee will attempt to work out

the stratigraphy or interrelationships between the various rock types involved.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

DR. WM. RANDOLPH TAYLOR, of the University of Michigan, writes to *SCIENCE* that a letter received from Dr. Julienne Payen, student of the chemical constituents of the algae, indicates that difficulties in securing transportation to collecting areas interfered with her research during the war. She will now resume work at the Laboratoire de Cryptogamie, Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris. A card has also been received from Dr. Ad. Davy de Virville, phycologist, indicating that he has become Directeur du Laboratoire des Travaux pratiques de Biologie végétale of the Sorbonne. His scientific collections escaped, though he had some personal losses due to the war.

A CARD signed by Professor Pierre Dangeard, Laboratoire de Botanique, Université de Bordeaux, France, dated April 12, reads in part: "... et j'ai le plaisir de vous informer que nos laboratoires et nos collections n'ont pas jusqu'ici souffert de la guerre. . . ."

A LETTER from Professor Roger Meslin, Caen, reads in part as follows:

Malheureusement notre vieille Université a été complètement anéantie par le feu et les bombes deux jours avant l'entrée des Alliés. En quelques heures des laboratoires, les collections zoologiques . . . , la riche bibliothèque universitaire ont détruits par l'incendie. Au Jardin des Plantes, les serres ont été également bombardées de même que la galerie des collections botaniques. Heureusement il n'y a pas eu d'incendie et dans les décombres j'ai pu récupérer la plus grande partie des herbiers algologiques, notamment celui de Lamouroux. Mais entrepôts dans un local sans vitres, le herbiers ont beaucoup souffert des intempéries de l'hiver. Le laboratoire botanique, occupé par les allemands durant tout le mois de juin, a été pillé par eux, et le matériel volé ou démoli!

The collection of J. V. F. Lamouroux is one of the early nineteenth century algal collections most important for its reference value to phycologists, and its salvage a matter for sincere congratulation.

DR. J. H. F. UMBGROVE, Technische Hoogeschool, Delft, Holland, writes to Professor Marshall Kay, Columbia University: "My family has come through without any injury, though we have been through most trying times. . . . We have seen no English and American scientific magazines since May, 1940. Could you send as many reprints of geological, paleontological and geophysical articles as you and your colleagues can. I am really longing for them."

THE editor of *Chronica Botanica* reports that, ac-