October 14, for the purpose of discussing plans for the St. Louis meeting; a similar conference of the secretaries who live in the Middle West will be held at the Stevens Hotel, Chicago, at 10 o'clock A.M., on October 21.

F. R. MOULTON,
Permanent Secretary

EXPEDITION TO NYASALAND OF THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

THE American Museum of Natural History, New York, has announced plans for its first large-scale expedition abroad since 1941.

Arthur S. Vernay, trustee of the museum, who has sponsored numerous expeditions to remote parts of the world for the past twenty-five years to collect material for exhibition and research, will lead an expedition to Nyasaland, South Africa, next April, where it is planned to make extensive collections of mammal and plant life. His last expedition for the museum, with Lieutenant Colonel C. Suydam Cutting and Dr. Harold E. Anthony, was in northern Burma in 1939, a few months prior to the war.

Members of the expedition will include Dr. Harold E. Anthony, chairman and curator of the Department of Mammals; Leonard Brass, botanist, and Captain Guy Shortridge, director of the Kaffrarian Museum of King William's Town, South Africa.

Dr. Anthony will represent the museum in the study of the mammals collected. Unless some very unusual specimen of large game is encountered, the energies of the party will be devoted to the intensive study of the smaller and less conspicuous fauna.

The native plants of Nyasaland are little known. Mr. Brass, who accompanied the Richard Archbold Expeditions to New Guinea, which in 1939 discovered the hidden "Shangri-La" Valley, will collect herbarium and living botanical specimens. This material will go to the New York Botanical Garden, which is cooperating in the project.

The expedition will be in the field for five months, working during the dry season, from May to October of 1946. A complete record in motion picture and color photography is planned in conjunction with the collecting work. Trained natives will assist in hunting and in the preparation of material.

PREDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS IN THE NATURAL SCIENCES

THE National Research Council announces that it is now ready to receive nominations and applications for the predoctoral fellowships in the natural (*i.e.*, mathematical, physical and biological) sciences which it is administering under a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. These fellowships are intended to assist young men and women, whose graduate study has been prevented or interrupted by the war, to complete their work for the doctorate. It is hoped that these fellowships will do much to accelerate the recovery of the scientific vigor and competence of the country which is so seriously threatened by the loss of almost two graduate school generations of scientifically trained men and women.

This program will be administered by a Committee on Predoctoral Fellowships of the National Research Council whose members are Henry A. Barton, Charles W. Bray, Detlev W. Bronk, Luther P. Eisenhart, Ross G. Harrison (chairman—National Research Council, *ex officio*), W. A. Noyes, Jr., and John T. Tate, *chairman;* Enid Hannaford, *secretary.*

The annual stipend will be $1,200 for single persons and $1,800 for married men. In general it is expected that each recipient will spend at least eleven months per year on academic work. An additional allowance up to $500 per year will be made for tuition fees. Fellowships granted to individuals who are eligible for educational support from the "G.I. Bill of Rights" will be at such stipends as to bring the total income from these two sources to that which would be received at the above rates.

Each fellow, before entering on his graduate studies, will submit for review by the Committee on Predoctoral Fellowships a schedule, approved by the dean of his graduate school, for the completion of his work for the doctorate. This schedule, as approved by the committee, will constitute an informal agreement upon the basis of which stipend payments will be made. At the discretion of the university concerned the fellowship stipend may be supplemented by university grants. All such supplementary sources of income should be made a matter of record with the committee. The progress of the fellows will be subject to periodic review by the committee which reserves the right to cancel fellowships when in their judgment satisfactory progress is not being maintained.

Prospective candidates for these fellowships are urged to apply at once even though they may be unable to undertake their graduate study in the immediate future. Information concerning the fellowships and nomination-application blanks are being mailed out widely to graduate schools and wartime research laboratories. They may also be obtained by writing directly to the Secretary, Committee on Predoctoral Fellowships, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington 25, D. C.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR EDWARD A. STEINHAUS, of the University of California, writes:

Readers of SCIENCE may be interested in the following fragmentary information concerning Dr. A. Paillot,

French scientist well known for his studies on the microbiology of insects and for his book "L'Infection chez les Insectes." He was Directeur de la Station de Zoologie Agricole du Sud-Est, at Saint-Genis-Laval (Rhône).

Dr. Paillot died suddenly of cerebral hemorrhage on December 23, 1944. To a large extent he was able to carry on his research during most of the German occupation of France. His youngest son was arrested, taken from the country, and held in a prison camp. This, together with the uncertainties concerning the welfare of his other children, probably did much to hasten his death.

I received this information a few days ago from his wife, Madam Paillot, who said that although the period of occupation was trying, her husband never gave up hope that liberation would come.

Dr. E. W. Lindstrom, professor of genetics at Iowa State College, has transmitted to SCIENCE the following letter, dated June 1, from Professor Adriano Buzzati-Traverso, Instituto Italiano di Idrobiologia, Verbania Pallanza:

I take the first chance offered me to let you have my news after this long and terrible war by means of the kindness of the local American Civil Affairs Officer (Major Maurice R. Brown). At the beginning of 1941 I was sent with my regiment to Libya. I was sent back because of illness and on recovery went to my work at the University of Pavia. . . .

I worked for 5 months in 1942 at Timofeeff-Ressowsky's Institute for Public Health in Rome until June, 1943, publishing several papers in Italian scientific journals. . .

At the time of Italian armistice and German invasion, I was home in Belluno. Later I went back to Pavia to save the laboratory. I transported scientific materials, books, apparatus and cultures to Pallanza, wherefrom I am now writing. In such a way I succeeded in saving a collection of more than 200 living stocks of Drosophila which I think is the only one surviving in continental Europe, with the exception of Russia.

As you know the Italian situation in the field of biology was bad even before the war and since it has become even worse with the destruction of many university laboratories and libraries. The new Italian government is now facing more urgent problems than the reorganization of universities. . .

The most urgent need is to get acquainted with scientific production of the Allied Nations during the last five years. We need to have here books and journals. . . . To modernize Italian biology we are starting publication of short books, dealing with modern biology. We need also suggestions on books or general articles which you judge worthy of translation.

Dr. E. D. Merrill, director of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, writes that he has just received a letter from a former staff member of the Berlin Botanic Garden, supplying certain definite information as to what happened to that institution in the bombing raids commencing on March 1, 1943 (see SCIENCE n.s. 98: 490–491. 1943).

The Botanical Museum was the first of the museums in Berlin to be hit by explosive and phosphorus bombs, this on the night of March 1. There was no possible defence against the very large fire and about 90 per cent. of the herbarium, the complete library, and the library of the Brandenburg Botanischer Verein that was stored in the building (20,000 volumes), and all manuscripts and technical papers in preparation were lost. In addition to the general herbarium, among the special collections lost were the Schweinfurth herbarium, the East African collections, the Clemens' Borneo collections, Weberbauer's Peruvian material, the Schlecter orchid herbarium, all the Chinese collections and all the private collections of staff members in the form of books, reprints, etc.

Among the material saved was all of the very large fern collection and some of the fungi, for this material had been transferred to the entrance hall for removal to a safer place. A certain amount of the material in the basement, mostly duplicates, and all the types of *Proteales, Santales* and *Rhoeadales* had been removed from the general herbarium some days before the catastrophe, as well as the complete and historically very important Willdenow herbarium; the opinion was expressed that most of the material on loan from foreign institutions was saved. The collections that were saved had been transferred to the abandoned galleries of a former salt mine near Bleicherode (Harz), this being located in what is now the Russian zone of occupation.

On February 15, 1944, the colonial wing of the main building, which contained important collections of wood, fruits and certain exhibition material, was struck by a phosphorus bomb and was utterly destroyed.

Dr. Merrill's informant states that when his correspondent returned to Berlin in June, 1943, for a short visit, he found the museum in ruins with no trace of his own scientific work remaining. During 1943 and 1944 the great palm house and other greenhouses were hit several times by heavy bombs and the garden became more and more devastated by numerous incendiary bombs, while the meadows were cut by trenches for civilian air defense. He states further that when he left Berlin in March, 1945, the institution was in a terrible condition.

Dr. Merrill observes that the destruction of the great basic collections of the herbarium material and literature in Berlin is by far the greatest botanical catastrophe of the war, and its loss will be reflected in future years in all countries where botanical work is prosecuted, because of the historical aspects of the collection.

Dr. P. L. LeComte du Noüy, of New York, writes to SCIENCE: "I have just received a letter from France informing me of the death of my friend and colleague, Professor Fred Vlès, of the University of Strasbourg.

"Dr. Vlès was imprisoned by the Germans in March, 1944, and died of hunger and exposure in the box car in which he was, as hundreds of others, shipped to Germany.

"Fred Vlès will be remembered as the greatest biophysicist in Europe, and as the founder and editor of the *Archives de Physique biologique,* of which seventeen volumes were published since 1921. His work on the physical chemistry of cancerous serum is of outstanding importance.

"The same letter also informs me of the heroic death of one of his coworkers, Dr. Reiss, medical officer of an F.F.I. resistance group, killed in action at Chaudesaignes.

"The *Archives* will go on, under the direction of a group of his associates: Professor Vellinger, Professor G. Achard, Dr. Gex and myself."

In a letter dated August 26, 1945, from Munich Dr. W. M. Hoehn, of Kansas City, received the following interesting letter concerning Dr. Wieland, director of the department of chemistry of the Ludwig-Maximilian University in Munich:

I did see Dr. Wieland of Munich—Dr. Geheimat Wieland, former head of the School of Medicine and an authority on hormones to which he gave most of his studies. His case is typical of many of the learned men of this defeated country; I am not saying the treatment was justified as I don't know the whole story, only words in his defense.

Dr. Wieland is a rather small man with a pleasing personality, quite modest and his hair is very sparse; he wears very heavy glasses. I saw him at Starnberg where his friends arranged a meeting with me. He said the authorities had deprived him of his books and would not permit him to work in his laboratory. He has been moved forcibly four or five times and now lives in a single room with his wife, who is a pleasant woman. It seems to be such a tragic ending to such a learned man—he is highly regarded in this city, every one knows him and those who attended the university and know him personally believe that he is being held under suspicion unjustly. I have heard the story from many sources, but it is best told by one of his students, a Belgian who has studied under him for five years. Briefly it is this: Dr. Wieland was to be given the Goethe Medaille für Kunst und Wissenschaft from the Nazis for his work. He did not wish to accept it as he was not in sympathy with the Nazis' uses of his discoveries and teachings. It was either accept or go to prison; his friends urged him to accept because much of his work was yet to be done and he could continue. The honor was accepted and he became tied up with the National Socialists.

Most of his time is spent now with his wood cutting and winter is coming on.

Dr. Wieland has done a great deal to present basic facts about bile acids, sterols and the opium alkaloids. The fundamental research which has been done in his laboratories has done much toward establishing the structures of these compounds. It is most unfortunate, indeed, that he can not continue work in this field and contribute to the store of fundamental knowledge.

It is instances of this type that will create the great intellectual desert in the European universities. The results will eventually affect the university and industrial life in the United States, since a great deal of the fundamental knowledge was formerly derived from the European universities. Men of Dr. Wieland's caliber are still able to make great contributions to the field of science which will work for universal good.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

A DINNER was given on October 3 at the Faculty Club of Harvard University in honor of Dr. C. T. Brues, professor of entomology, on the occasion of his retirement with the title emeritus. There was an attendance of eighty. A bound book, containing letters of appreciation and a silver bowl were presented to him. Dr. F. M. Carpenter, who will succeed Dr. Brues as professor of entomology, presided.

THE Remington Gold Medal, conferred each year for work during the preceding year, or culminating over a period of years, judged most important to American pharmacy, has been awarded to Joseph Rosin, pharmaceutical chemist of Plainfield, N. J., in recognition of "contributions to scientific pharmacy and the development of drug standards for protection of the public." The medal commemorates Joseph P. Remington, the nineteenth century pharmacist who made many contributions to research, education and pharmaceutical literature. In naming Mr. Rosin to receive the medal, the committee on award cited him as "the foremost American authority on chemical reagents."

PROFESSOR HENRY C. SHERMAN and Mrs. Sherman gave on September 25 a luncheon at the Men's Faculty Club of Columbia University in honor of Dr. H. Louise Campbell, who is retiring from her research work in food chemistry.

DR. D. ROBERT YARNALL, president of the Yarnall-Waring Company of Philadelphia, has been elected president of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers for 1945–46.

DR. WILLIAM S. HALL, now eighty-four years old, a member of the faculty of Lafayette College for sixty-one years, has presented his resignation. Dr. Hall, who was head of the department of mathematics, retired in 1934 after serving for fifty years, but he remained clerk of the faculty.