

Geological School in England

Geology

Ten geologists have just reached Liverpool to inaugurate the first International Summer School of Geology and Natural Resources under the auspices of Princeton University.

For two months the party, traveling by automobile, will visit and study the principal geological formations of England, Scotland and Wales.

The American party will be the guests of the British geologists, and the trip will be run by Prof. Owen Thomas Jones, F. R. S., head of the department of geology, University of Manchester, and E. B. Bailey, F. G. S., of the Geological Survey of Scotland. A number of other British geologists will act as guides in special localities. The excursion is being run as a demonstration of the fundamental problems in British geology and their relation to national resources.

The party includes: Dr. E. O. Ulrich, U. S. Geological Survey, senior

paleontologist, National Museum, specialist in stratigraphy of the Lower Paleozoic; Dr. T. L. Tanton, Geological Survey of Canada, specialist in Pre-Cambrian geology; Prof. R. M. Field, Department of Geology, Princeton University, director of the International Summer School of Geology and Natural Resources, specialist in paleoceanography and sedimentation; Prof. C. E. Gordon, head of the department of geology, Massachusetts Agricultural College; Prof. T. H. Clark, department of geology, McGill University, Lower Paleozoic Stratigraphy; L. L. Lee, State of New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station; Henry Jeffers, Walker-Gordon Company, specialist in grassland management; R. F. Norris, Princeton '28; J. S. Vhay, Princeton '29; W. J. Newell, Princeton '29.

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Dr. Theobald Smith Reaches 70

Animal Pathology

One of America's pioneer scientists, Dr. Theobald Smith, will celebrate his seventieth birthday on the last day of July. He has just retired from the directorship of the department of animal pathology of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, but this great scientist, who showed the world a new way to wipe out disease, who conquered Texas fever and who demonstrated the difference between human and bovine tuberculosis, expects to continue his scientific work at the institute's laboratories.

Dr. Smith's epochal discovery, in 1893, that Texas fever of cattle was transmitted from one animal to another by ticks, was a far-reaching contribution to scientific advancement. It opened an entirely new field of medical research and a new line of attack on disease. The knowledge that an insect plays the important role of transmitting disease germs from one animal to another, and that part of the germ's life cycle is spent in the body of the insect, led to discovery of the role played by the mosquito in yellow fever and malaria and by the tsetse fly in African sleeping sickness.

It was Dr. Smith who discovered the cause of tuberculosis in cows, known as bovine tuberculosis, and he was the first to distinguish the bacillus from that causing the disease in

human beings. That was at the close of the last century. A quarter of a century later he studied and reported on the relation of bovine infectious abortion to Malta fever. This disease, or a variant of it in this country known as undulant fever, it causing concern among physicians and public health officials at present.

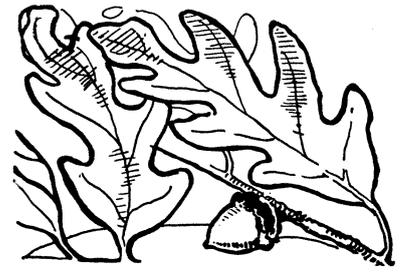
Other scientific work of Dr. Smith's was done on such vitally significant subjects as toxin-antitoxin mixtures in diphtheria, milk-borne epidemics of human streptococcus infection, and the protective value of colostrum, the first secretion of mother's milk after the birth of the infant.

"He was the first and remains the captain of American microbe hunters," wrote Paul de Kruif. "He showed men an entirely new and fantastic way a disease may be carried—by an insect. Wipe out that insect, dip all of your cattle in fields where there are no ticks, and Texas fever will disappear from the earth. Today whole states are dipping their cattle and today Texas fever which once threatened the great myriads of American cattle is no longer a matter of concern." *Science News-Letter, July 20, 1929*

Egyptian mummies show that gallstones are one of the old ailments of mankind.

NATURE RAMBLINGS

By FRANK THONE



Plant Oaks

Midsummer days make us thank God for thinking of trees, and also thank such men as are forethoughtful enough to plant young trees along streets and in parks, where they will be our shield when we flee from the over-ardent sun.

As we Americans come more and more to build for permanence we should plan our street and landscape plantings for permanence also. The poplars and soft maples of pioneer settlements and hasty real-estate "improvements" must give way to trees that are longer-lived, even if slower-growing. Hard maples and elms are having their day, and it is the turn of the oaks as well.

In the South, of course, the beauty and utility of the live-oak has always been appreciated. Trees planted long "before the War" line the streets of many cities and towns below the Mason and Dixon line, venerable giants in size, but still youthful in vigor.

In the North, perhaps the favorite has been the white oak. It is of rather slow growth, but develops the very finest of timber, is strong, long-lived, and of beautifully symmetrical habit when growing in the open. Its sweet acorns, moreover, are great favorites with squirrels. A relative, the burr oak, does well in drier locations in the prairie states.

But the prize for suitability as a street tree among oaks must be awarded the pin oak. This belongs to the black-oak fraternity, but due partly to its odd habit of growing innumerable short twigs all over its trunk and then burying them in the growing wood, it builds up a complex-grained, tough-knit trunk, topped by a splendid symmetrical pyramid of a crown.

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