

International Study of Pacific

Scientific cooperation between all the nations whose lands border on the Pacific Ocean, toward the conquest of research and practical problems involving all of the sciences, was urged before the meeting of the Pacific Science Council in Java, from which Dr. T. Wayland Vaughan, director of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography has recently returned. A number of resolutions, putting various steps of the contemplated program into definite form, were laid before the Council and unanimously adopted.

One of the most ambitious of the projects is the surrounding of the Pacific with a chain of oceanographic institutions like the one at La Jolla, which will serve as headquarters for the laboratory attack on ocean problems and as bases for the operation of scientific expeditions in the field. The Council recognized that the vastness of the Pacific precludes the possibility of any one institution, or any

one country, taking over the whole of the work, and agreed upon the great desirability of international effort among all the governments concerned, with a coordinated program of work for all existing institutions as well as the new ones that may be established.

The recklessness with which hunters and collectors, both commercial and scientific, are depleting stocks of wild animals and plants, even in the prolific tropics, was specifically condemned in two resolutions, and conservational measures were suggested. Other resolutions proposed new lines of research, or commended those already in progress. Among these are the study of variations in terrestrial magnetism, of earthquakes in the region of the China Sea, of geological survey work in the same region, of investigations of the structure of certain typical coral islands, and of the mapping of oceanic depths by means of echo-sounding.

Science News-Letter, October 12, 1929

Undulant Fever

Undulant fever, one of the newest diseases of man, is widespread throughout the United States, a survey made by the U. S. Public Health Service has revealed.

For some time this disease, variously known as Malta, Mediterranean or undulant fever, and acquired from the milk of infected cows or goats or from other infected cattle, was thought to be confined to one or two western states. The survey showed that only West Virginia and Wyoming have not had any cases reported during the five year period covered by the investigation. In every other state at least one or two cases were reported during that time. Since the disease is new and unfamiliar, it is likely that many more cases have occurred, unrecognized, than the reports show.

The number of cases reported throughout the country has been steadily climbing from 24 in 1925 to 649 in 1928. For 1929 only 366 cases have been reported thus far. Wisconsin, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, California, Illinois, Minnesota and Iowa reported the greatest number of cases in 1929.

The disease is characterized by long continuation with many periods of apparent recovery and subsequent relapses. High fever with rheumatic and neuralgic pains occur, but the disease is not often fatal.

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Do You Know That—

One million people in the United States suffer from hay fever.

It is estimated that 1,000,000 persons in the United States have some form of speech disorder.

No one in France may cultivate tobacco without official authorization.

Massachusetts was the first state to adopt a compulsory school attendance law.

One of the great cork-oak trees of Portugal may yield as much as 500 pounds of cork.

Some desert plants contain water, which travelers find useful in quenching their thirst.

A new device for making names of streets visible at night is a flashing sign placed at the curb.

“Prove All Things”

ERICH WASMANN, in *Modern Biology and the Theory of Evolution* (Herder):

Nature is intolerant of constraint applied in favor of any particular theory; any one who tries to account for all phenomena in the same way is doomed to failure.

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U. S. Has Most Accidents

The United States has more fatal accidents than any other country, Dr. Louis I. Dublin of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. declared at the National Safety Congress. While England and Wales in 1927 had 38 accidental deaths for each 100,000 of population, the United States had 78 per 100,000. Scotland had 50, Sweden 35, France 29, and Germany 36, respectively, per 100,000.

Instead of going down, the number of fatal accidents in this country is increasing. In 1928 there were more than during any other year on record. Automobile accidents are most frequent of all the fatal accidents, being responsible for almost a third of the total. In 1928 there were 27,000 deaths from motor vehicle accidents. These were accompanied by 950,000 serious, non-fatal injuries from the same cause. The reports from the cities and states indicate that the cities of this country are not experiencing as rapid an increase in motor fatalities as are the rural districts, Dr. Dublin said.

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Much Cry; Little Wool

Alexander William Stern in *The Monist*, April, 1929:

At no time is science so much talked about and as little understood by the layman as now.

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