

H. F. Osborn: "Environment and Relations of the Tertiary Mammalia."

T. W. Stanton: "Succession and Distribution of Later Mesozoic Invertebrate Faunas."

W. H. Dall: "Conditions governing the Evolution and Distribution of Tertiary Faunas."

Ralph Arnold: "Environment of the Tertiary Faunas of the Pacific Coast."

F. H. Knowlton: "Succession and Range of Mesozoic and Tertiary Floras."

R. D. Salisbury: "Physical Geography of the Pleistocene with Special Reference to Conditions Bearing on Correlation."

D. T. MacDougal: "Relation of Plants to Climate with Special Reference to Pleistocene Conditions."

T. C. Chamberlin: "Diastrophism as the Ultimate Basis of Correlation."

BAILEY WILLIS,  
*Vice-president of Section E*  
E. O. HOVEY,  
*Secretary of the Geological*  
*Society of America*

#### THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NATURALISTS

THE following circular, prepared for members of the American Society of Naturalists, is published in *SCIENCE*, in the hope of reaching many members of the affiliated societies who are not now members of the Society of Naturalists. It is hoped that all who are interested in the scientific study of evolution will join the naturalists in making a systematic effort to present the results of modern investigation in this field. Many who have not hitherto attended to the matter will also now appreciate the other advantages to be accomplished by strengthening this association of the special scientific societies to which they belong. Candidates are requested to apply directly to the secretary of the society, in accordance with the article of the constitution printed below.

#### REORGANIZATION AND ANNUAL MEETING

In view of the opinion, apparently so wide spread, that the American Society of Naturalists has no important function, and is not meeting the requirements of a proper cooperation between its affiliated societies and others, the following plan of reorganization is presented by the president

and executive committee. (Attention is especially called to paragraph 5.)

1. The Society of Naturalists shall remain independent of other general societies.

2. The Society shall continue to represent the natural affiliation between its group of technical societies composed of scientific specialists.

3. Cooperation with other organizations shall be accomplished through the executive committee, which shall be selected with a view to the establishment of such external relations.

4. The policy of the Society shall be redefined, so as to adjust it more definitely to exert an influence for the encouragement of research in the larger field of science which it has cultivated from the start.

5. It is suggested that the main object of the society be considered the study of evolution in all of its many-sided aspects (historical, environmental, experimental, etc.). There is no subject which would so well hold together all the present members (including botanists, zoologists, physiologists, anatomists, paleontologists, anthropologists, etc.). It is suggested, therefore, that each year original contributions dealing with evolutionary matters be presented at one or more of the sessions of the American Society of Naturalists. It may also prove desirable to have reports each year of the most important recent work in evolution, in several of its different aspects (botany, zoology, paleontology, etc.). In this way members could be kept in touch with the most important advances in different departments. Such reviews should be given by men eminent in their respective fields.

This year the Darwin Memorial Celebration of the American Association will be conducted along the lines sketched above. The Society of Naturalists will, therefore, not attempt, at this meeting, to present a similar program; but, after the presidential address, will devote its session to the consideration of other problems.

#### New Members

The above plan will doubtless attract a considerable number of investigators interested in the general problems of evolution, and it is hoped that all available candidates will be induced to join the Society at this time, and will have their names sent in.

ARTICLE II.—Section 1. Membership in this Society shall be limited to persons professionally engaged in some branch of Natural History, as, Instructors in Natural History, Officers of Mu-

seums and other Scientific Institutions, Physicians and others, who have essentially promoted the Natural History Sciences by original contributions of any kind. Any member may present to the Executive Committee of the Society or of the Branch to which he belongs names of candidates for membership, and those candidates who are approved by the Committee may be elected to membership in the Society by a majority of the members present at any meeting of the Branch.

Annual dues, \$1.00.

*This December Meeting—December 31, 1908*

The next meeting of the American Society of Naturalists will be held in Baltimore, Md., at Johns Hopkins Medical School, in the auditorium of the Physiological Building, Thursday, December 31, 1908, at 3 P.M. The address of the President, Professor D. P. Penhallow, of McGill University, will be on "The Functions of the American Society of Naturalists." There will then be a brief discussion in which matters of much importance to the Society will be brought up. Speakers will be limited to ten minutes. Several prominent investigators have already agreed to take part. The annual business meeting will follow.

The coming meeting is important. It has become necessary to secure positive action from its members if the integrity of the society is to be maintained. Shall the Society be permitted to dissolve? No other association emphasizes so well the distinctively scientific interests of this group of special societies as does the Society of Naturalists. It should, therefore, be made more representative of those societies for which it stands. Its affiliated societies should always retain complete independence, and yet will be able to accomplish more for science by establishing more practical machinery for cooperation. The Naturalists will then be able to act together effectively in dealing with general problems or with other more general societies.

The usual annual dinner will this year be merged with the Darwin dinner of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, to be held on the evening of January 1, 1909. This Society has also been invited to attend the Darwin Memorial Exercises on January 1, organized under the auspices of the American Association.

Members are requested to send their correct addresses, etc., to the secretary at once, so that an accurate membership list may be printed.

For particulars of the arrangements of rates, hotels, etc., for the Baltimore meeting consult the

Announcement of the American Association, or Dr. L. O. Howard, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

By order of the Executive Committee:

D. P. PENHALLOW, *President.*

T. H. MORGAN, *Vice-President and Chairman of the Eastern Branch.*

R. A. HARPER, *Vice-President and Chairman of the Central Branch.*

THOS. G. LEE, *Secretary of Central Branch.*

H. VON SCHRENK, *Treasurer.*

O. W. CALDWELL, } *Members of Executive Committee.*  
W. R. COE, }

H. McE. KNOWER, *Secretary,*  
*Johns Hopkins Medical School,*  
*Baltimore, Md.*

December 1, 1908

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

ACCORDING to a cablegram to the daily papers from Stockholm, King Gustaf distributed the Nobel prizes on December 10. The awards, not identical in the cases of physics and literature with those cabled to this country last week, are as follows: Literature, Dr. Rudolf Eucken, professor of philosophy at Jena; physics, Professor Gabriel Lippman, of the University of Paris; chemistry, Professor Ernest Rutherford, director of the physical laboratory of the University of Manchester, England; medicine, divided between Dr. Paul Ehrlich, of Berlin, and Professor Elie Metchnikoff, of the Pasteur Institute, Paris; the promotion of peace, K. P. Arnoldson, of Sweden, and M. F. Bajer, of Denmark.

THE Paris Academy of Sciences has divided the LaLande prize between Professor W. L. Elkin, director of the Yale Observatory, and Dr. F. L. Chase, assistant astronomer in the observatory, for their papers on "The Parallaxes of 163 Stars." Mr. M. F. Smith, assistant in the observatory, was given honorable mention in the award.

PROFESSOR GEORGE DAVIDSON, head of the geographical department of the University of California, has been presented with the Charles P. Daly medal of the American Geographical Society.

DR. JOHN G. CURTIS, professor of physiology in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of