

QUOTATIONS

THE BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

WHAT Representative Wadsworth of New York, chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, hopes to do by striking out from the agricultural bill before it is reported to the House the provisions for the maintenance of the biological survey is not clear. If this menace is agreed to by the House it will only serve to add to Mr. Wadsworth's unpopularity with the farmers of his section of the state. On the face of it, the plan to abolish the biological survey is an utterly foolish thing to do.

Because no reason is apparent for the hostile action of Mr. Wadsworth's committee, some persons have suspected a personal animus back of the move. If the appropriation for the support of the survey is allowed to be stricken out on the grounds of economy it is a policy of penny wise and pound foolish. It costs only about \$55,000 to do the work of the survey. Naturalists, bird lovers, and all others interested in game protection say that the work of the bureau is done efficiently.

Dr. C. Hart Merriam, the chief of the biological survey, is a New York physician, who gave over a large practice in order to take up the government work at a small salary because of his love for natural science. He is one of the noted ornithologists and mammalogists of the world. Dr. A. K. Fisher, assistant in charge of economic investigation, is also a physician who dropped his practice and went in to the government service for reasons akin to those which moved Dr. Merriam to the same course. Dr. T. S. Palmer has direct charge of the enforcement of the game laws and is the chief adviser on game and song-bird protection matters for the game protection officials of the different states. Under Dr. Palmer's direction within the last few years the work of protecting the game birds and game mammals of the country has been put upon a plane of efficiency.

The present expectation is that the usual appropriations for carrying on the work of the survey will be put in while the bill is under consideration in the House. Even should representatives support their com-

mittee, not much doubt is expressed that the senate will do what is necessary. President Roosevelt is not loath to take a hand in legislative enterprises, and he would certainly not be backward in coming to the assistance of the chief of the survey should his assistance be necessary.—New York *Evening Post*.

LECTURES ON PROBLEMS OF INSANITY

THE Psychiatric Society of New York has arranged for a series of four lectures on problems of insanity, to be held under the auspices of the Academy of Medicine at 17 West 43d Street, on Saturdays, January 19, February 2, February 16 and March 2, 1907, at 8:30 P.M. The purpose of these lectures is to put within the reach of the medical profession and also of the non-professional leaders of sociological interests a program of work and facts for orientation, with a view to the organization of a movement towards prophylaxis and the development of sound interests in this eminently important topic.

The first lecture will be given by Dr. Adolf Meyer, on Modern Psychiatry, its possibilities and opportunities; the second lecture, by Dr. August Hoch, discusses the manageable causes of insanity, exclusive of heredity; the third lecture by Dr. C. L. Dana, the data of heredity and their application in psychiatry; and the fourth lecture by Dr. Allan McLane Hamilton, the development of the legal regulations concerning the insane.

Encouraged by the welcome which the broad movement against tuberculosis has received, the society considers a public discussion of the facts of insanity of fundamental importance for a natural development of public and personal hygiene, and the only way to replace the traditional horror and disregard by a profitable interest on the part of the thinking and active citizens of the community. Where general cooperation is so much needed as it is in the handling of abnormal mental developments, it is especially necessary to bring together the many interests which now work independently in social reform, schools, hospitals, courts and institutions. C. MACFIE CAMPBELL, M. B.,

Secretary