

ACADEMY'S STAFF CONSULTED ON DEFENSE WORK

A RECENT VISITOR at the Academy was Professor Alfred C. Redfield, of the Department of Zoölogy in Harvard University, who came to consult with members of the Academy's staff with regard to biological problems relating to the National war effort.



STUDENT SECTION STUDIES CHINA COAST

AT THE MEETING of the Student Section of the Academy on February 6, Dr. Robert C. Miller, Director of the Academy, spoke on "The China Coast." The lecture was illustrated with numerous slides made from photographs taken by Dr. Miller during his residence in South China. An illuminating description was given of Hong Kong and the region immediately surrounding it, and of Canton and the adjacent territory in which Chinese troops are steadily advancing. Dr. Miller is a great admirer of the Chinese, and considers that biologically they have the best chance of survival of any people in the world. He stated that in their play, their sense of humor, and their lively enjoyment of conversation they are more like Americans than is true of any other Oriental people.

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HONG KONG WATERFRONT

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February Announcement

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held in the Simson African Hall, East Wing of the Museum Buildings in Golden Gate Park, Wednesday evening, February 18, 1942, at 8 o'clock, at which meeting the election of officers for the ensuing year will be announced, and the annual reports of the Academy will be presented.

Members and their friends are cordially invited to be present at the Annual Meeting and also to visit the research departments of the Academy during the afternoon of February 18, 1942, between 2:00 and 4:30 o'clock.



NOTICE is hereby given to all Corporate Members that the Council at its meeting, January 16, 1942, approved the applications of Mrs. James T. Allen, Miss Edna M. Bailey, Mr. William C. Baxter, Mr. Harvey M. Berglund, Mr. Walter Binney, Mr. Charles R. Blyth, Professor Olga Bridgman, Miss Jacqueline Brooks, Mr. E. J. Chubbuck, Dr. John A. Clark, Mr. Albert E. Colburn, Dr. N. W. Cummings, Dr. Glenn F. Cushman, Professor Peter Frandsen, Dr. William M. Hiesey, Dr. Francis E. Lloyd, Mr. T. S. MacQuiddy, Mrs. Gardner Morris, Dr. Hubert G. Schenck, Mr. Charles H. Segerstrom, Professor Ralph E. Smith, and Mr. Roger W. Swanson for MEMBERSHIP in the California Academy of Sciences. If no objection to the election of these applicants be received at the office of the Academy within two weeks after February 11, 1942, they will be considered elected.



BOTANICAL RED-LETTER DAY

IT IS REPORTED that on January 19 a visitor to the Park, while standing meditatively in the Shakespeare Garden, overheard a mysterious voice remark:

The yearly course that brings this day about
Shall never see it but a holiday.

We cannot undertake to explain nor even to verify the episode of the mysterious voice. Maybe it was the visitor's imagination. Maybe the bust of Shakespeare has been wired for sound. To the date of this writing no investigation has been made.

Be that as it may, January 19 *was* a holiday. On that day the members of the California Botanical Club gathered at a luncheon to honor Miss Eastwood, to congratulate her on her eighty-third birthday, and to induct her auspiciously into the eighty-fourth year of her busy and active life. The party, which was arranged by Mrs. George H. C. Meyer, afforded a happy time for Miss Eastwood with club members and friends, of whom about fifty were present.

By a pleasing coincidence, another person well known in San Francisco botanical and horticultural circles has a birthday on January 19, Miss Jean Boyd, secretary of the San Francisco Garden Club. Miss Boyd has been active in the formation of a Committee which has interested itself in raising funds for the proposed Alice Eastwood Herbarium.

A good time was had by all who were able to attend the luncheon. That peculiar sound heard in various directions, which was mistaken by some for anti-aircraft fire, is believed to have been the loud gnashing of teeth by the men, who were completely excluded from the party for no other reason than their sex. There are rumors of a movement for a new organization to be known as the "Society for Equal Rights for Men at Miss Eastwood's Birthday Parties."



BIRDS TAKE TO THE AIR

IN APRIL, 1939, the Academy was fortunate enough to receive twenty-nine live finches from the Galapagos Islands. These birds, belonging to a distinct avian sub-family restricted to the Galapagos Archipelago off the coast of Ecuador, were captured by members of the Lack-Venables Expedition of 1938-1939 and brought to San Francisco by Mr. David Lack. Originally destined for London, where they were to be used for experimental study by Mr. Lack and members of various English scientific organizations that had sponsored this expedition, a change in plan was necessitated by the difficulty of transporting living birds so far and properly caring for them on the ocean voyage.

It was agreed by members and sponsors of the expedition that it would be advisable to leave the birds with the California Academy of Sciences, where experimental studies on their behavior could be carried on. Accordingly aviaries were constructed on the roof of the Academy's West Wing Building where the birds have since been housed. Considerable success has been attained in breeding these birds in captivity, so much in fact that by 1942 there were more birds than could satisfactorily be housed in the aviaries available, and at the same time permit experimental work to proceed.

To relieve the situation a number of the birds were sent early this month to the New York Zoölogical Society which has kindly arranged accommodations for them at the Bronx Zoo in New York City. Soaring to heights greater than they had ever experienced in their native Galapagoan haunts the finches made their transcontinental trip by air express on a TWA plane in eighteen hours.