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closing one half the exhibition halls, keeping the museum open only during daylight hours, cancelling all evening lectures, discontinuing circulation of teaching nature study collections to the public schools of the city, except in the Borough of Manhattan, reducing from twenty-four to ten the number of lectures given at the museum to public school children, and discontinuing all lectures given in the schools.

The museum, during 1918, turned its greatest effort to war work, and, owing to the number and variety of specialists in its many departments, was able to render a very real and valuable service to the United States and to the allied nations. The various preparedness and food utilization and conservation exhibits drew crowds of people eager to see how they could safeguard and improve their health, and how to obtain the most nourishing and attractive food at the lowest cost.

In exploration and field work during the past year but little activity has been possible. Practically no new work has been undertaken, the museum limiting itself to carrying on in so far as possible projects which were already under way. The second Asiatic zoological expedition, under the direction of Mr. Roy C. Andrews, has been able to secure a number of large game animals from China. The third Asiatic zoological expedition, conducted by Mr. Paul J. Rainey, assisted by Mr. Edmund Heller, collected in adjoining regions. This work was financed entirely by Mr. Rainey. Work in South American archeology and ornithology has been done by Dr. Herbert J. Spinden, Mr. George K. Cherrie and Dr. Frank M. Chapman, who has combined the advancement of museum interests with Red Cross activities. The collecting of fossil vertebrates, long under way, has been continued during the past year by Mr. Barnum Brown, in

Cuba, Mr. Walter Granger, in Colorado, and Mr. Albert Thomson, in Nebraska. Investigations into American Indian life and archeology were continued by Dr. Clark Wissler in Ohio, Messrs. Earl H. Morris and B. T. B. Hyde in New Mexico and Mr. Leslie Spier in Arizona. Mr. Roy W. Miner has carried on his researches in invertebrate zoology at Woods Hole, Mass.

It has been possible during 1918 to complete a number of new habitat groups, many of which were already under way in 1917. These include the Florida Group—the largest and finest the museum has so far produced. It represents a typical Florida cypress swamp teeming with various forms of life, and presenting much information to even the most casual observer. Another fine group in the 1918 series is the Nahant Tide Pool Group, which reproduces the "Agassiz cave" of Nahant. The other groups, which are less elaborate, are the Blue Shark, Lemur and Migratory Butterfly Groups. A special exhibit of teeth, illustrating the kind, method of growth and replacement, etc., of the various types of mammal teeth, was also installed. Two notable single specimens were prepared and placed on exhibition—a mounted specimen of an okapi—a rare and shy animal of the African interior—and a model of a giant magnolia (*Magnolia macrophylla*), which is so life-like that visitors invariably mistake it for the actual flower, wonderfully preserved. The year also saw the practical completion of the rearrangement of the hall of primates.

EXPLORATION IN THE AMERICAN ARCTIC REGIONS

UNTIL recently only the larger features of the northern part of the American Arctic region have been known. The coast of this region has now been explored for more than

500 miles westward from Herschel Island to Point Barrow, and in all this distance, except at these two places, practically no permanent human habitation can be found. The sea is visited only by an occasional whaler or by a United States revenue cutter, and the land back from the shore tempts few to its wastes except geographers or geologists, who will not be content until they have explored and mapped all parts of the world. The results of long-continued travel and study in this far-off land by one of these explorers, Ernest deK. Leffingwell, have recently been published by the United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, in a report entitled "The Canning River Region, Northern Alaska."

Mr. Leffingwell spent nine summers and six winters on the Arctic Coast, made thirty-one trips, covering about 4,500 miles, by sled and small boat, and traversed the coast ten times by ship. Nearly all other parties that have made explorations in Alaska have been large enough to permit a division of the scientific observations and the physical labor incident to travel among several men, but during most of the time he devoted to these explorations Mr. Leffingwell had only one white man to help him—a man who could take no part in the scientific observations. In many of his journeys he had only one or two Eskimo companions, and in some he traveled entirely alone. He chose his own field and made explorations at his own initiative and expense, and the results he sets forth in the report just published are therefore in every sense of the word entirely his own contribution to science and to a better understanding of Arctic Alaska.

The Canning River region, which is the principal subject of the report, lies one third of the distance between the international boundary and Point Barrow. It is about midway between the area explored in

1911 and 1912 by the International Boundary Survey party, to which A. G. Maddren, of the United States Geological Survey, was attached as geologist, and the Colville River region, which was mapped both topographically and geologically in 1901 by a party sent out by the United States Geological Survey in charge of W. J. Peters and F. C. Schrader.

The southern part of the Canning River region lies in the Endicott Mountains, whose high, rugged, snow-clad peaks rise to elevations of 9,000 feet. Many large streams head in these mountains and flow northward, transverse to the trend of lower ridges, which extend east and west. At a distance of fifteen to fifty miles south of the coast these ridges disappear and the country has a gently sloping, almost unbroken, surface. This shoreward region is simply a flat tundra plain dotted with shallow ponds and lakes. Many of the larger rivers flow through this plain in cuts so shallow that their existence might not be suspected at a distance of half a mile.

SCIENTIFIC ITEMS

WE record with regret the death of Frederick Du Cane Godman, the distinguished English naturalist, and of J. J. T. Schloesing, professor of agricultural chemistry at Paris, who has died at the age of ninety-four years.

THE British Association for the Advancement of Science will resume its series of annual meetings this year at Bournemouth from September 9 to 13, under the presidency of the Hon. Sir Charles Parsons.—The annual meeting of the National Academy of Sciences was held at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington at the end of April. The William Ellery Hale Lecture was given by James Henry Breasted, professor of Egyptology and oriental history, University of Chicago, on "The Origin of Civilization."