

comfortable and steady steamer. The permanent staff on board should consist at least of the director, doctor, photographer, two stenographers, who should also be typists, and, if possible, an artist. Accommodation should be provided for a number of investigators, but these would not necessarily form part of the permanent staff. They would be conveyed to the district which they were to study and be removed therefrom when it was time to leave. The director would arrange with each investigator when the vessel would return, and the investigator would be left with all the apparatus, food, and trade that he required.

The general routine should be as follows:—an anthropological investigator would be expected to work on the general lines laid down by the director. When the vessel returned, all those on board would be required to help the investigator according to their several abilities; the expedition photographer would be placed at his disposal, and dances and ceremonies would also be kinematographed. The investigator would orally amplify his rough notes and dictate them to the stenographers, and, so far as possible, all notes should be typed in duplicate before the departure of the investigator, and a revision made of them before finally leaving the spot.

The foregoing remarks apply to anthropological investigators, but suitable arrangements could be made for geological, geographical, botanical, or zoological investigators; equal facilities should be given to American and foreign students; investigators should be of either sex.

It is only by an expedition of this kind that the anthropology of Melanesia can be studied as a whole and in detail. It would be an expensive undertaking, but the results obtained would amply justify the expenditure of time, labour, and money, and the data so obtained would constitute a mine of information for the present and future generations of students of man.

In the discussion which followed, Sir George Goldie, the president of the society, Dr. Herbertson, Mr. Chisholm, Dr. Seligmann, Mr. J. L. Myres, Mr. S. H. Ray, Mr. N. W. Thomas, Captain Wilson Barker, Major Darwin, Colonel Church, and the chairman, Sir Thomas Holdich, gave their cordial support to the proposed scheme. Several practical difficulties were pointed out, but none of them was insuperable. Some useful suggestions were also made. More than one speaker recognised that an expedition of this kind would serve as a valuable opportunity for increasing geographical, oceanographical, and meteorological knowledge.

#### DESTRUCTION OF ANIMALS IN AUSTRALIA.

IN the course of his address to the annual meeting of the Linnean Society of New South Wales, held on March 28, Mr. T. Steel, the president, alluded to a proposed method of destroying rabbits by means of an infectious disease, the precise nature of which is not yet disclosed. The idea, it appears, originated in Paris, and since the necessary funds have been subscribed by stock-owners and agriculturists, it is proposed to commence the experiment on a small island selected for the purpose. After discussing the arguments for and against the proposal, the president considered it highly undesirable that any such disease should be wilfully communicated to any species of animal, by means of which it might be disseminated throughout the country. As to the extermination of the rabbit, that is considered an impossible contingency; but means ought, and can, be found to keep the species in check without recourse to infectious diseases, which may be a danger to the community.

In the course of the same address Mr. Steel alluded to the necessity of special efforts if the native Australian fauna and flora are to be saved from destruction. Poison spread for rabbits is responsible for the destruction of a large number of indigenous mammals and birds, while, sad to relate, there are Europeans who will deliberately shoot down such harmless and peaceful creatures as the koala, or native bear, for the sake of so-called sport. Shooting domesticated sheep, it is remarked, would be equally worthy of such sportsmen.

A very similar note of alarm is sounded in the April issue of the *Victorian Naturalist* in the course of an account of a recent excursion by the members of the Field Naturalists' Club to the reserve for wild animals at Wilson's Promontory. Here the chief destruction is caused by half-wild dogs, which are not true dingoes, but the produce of a cross between the latter and dogs escaped from the fishermen of the district. If these pests are not soon exterminated there will be little hope of preserving any indigenous terrestrial animals in the reserve. With regard to the reserve itself, it is mentioned as a subject for regret that the whole area is cut off from the sea by a narrow strip of land which ought certainly to be added to the protected zone. If this were done, and certain neighbouring sawmills abolished, the reserve would probably flourish, provided it were separated from the mainland by a dog-and-rabbit-proof fence, and certain indigenous animals turned in from the adjacent districts. We wish every success to the movement.

#### ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY QUATER-CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS.

ACTIVE preparations are being made in connection with the quatercentenary celebrations of the University of Aberdeen, and the new buildings at Marischal College, which His Majesty the King is to open in the last week of September, are approaching completion. The handsome new block—"a dream in granite"—which completes the quadrangle includes new class-rooms and laboratories for physiology, geology, and agriculture; new rooms for education, medicine, modern languages, &c.; a new library for scientific literature, and new offices.

Among the distinguished guests who have accepted the University's invitation are:—Lord Avebury, Sir Robert Stawell Ball, Prof. A. H. Becquerel, Prof. Behring, Sir William Broadbent, Sir Jas. Crichton Browne, Mr. Thomas Bryant, Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Mr. W. S. Bruce, of the *Scotia*, Mr. James Bryce, M.P., Sir William Crookes, Dr. Casimir De Candolle, Prof. Watson Cheyne, Prof. Yves Delage, Dr. Anton Dohrn, Sir Michael Foster, Sir Joseph Fayrer, the Duke of Fife, Sir Edward Fry, Dr. R. T. Glazebrook, Prof. A. Giard, Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, Prof. Stanley Hall, Prof. Harald Höfding, Mr. R. B. Haldane, M.P., Prof. F. Hueppe, Prof. Jensen, Prof. Joseph Larmor, Sir Norman Lockyer, Prof. Lombroso, Sir Alfred Lyall, Dr. Donald Macalister, Major P. A. MacMahon, Signor Marconi, Prof. Mendeléeff, Prof. Menshutkin, Prof. Alexander Macalister, Prof. A. B. Macallum, Sir Alexander C. Mackenzie, Prof. Hugo Münsterberg, Sir John MacFadyean, Prof. Middleton, Prof. Mahaffy, Sir John Murray, Prof. Wilhelm Ostwald, Sir William Ramsay, Sir Henry Roscoe, Major Ronald Ross, Field-Marshal Earl Roberts, Sir James A. Russell, Dr. D. H. Scott, Dr. J. Hutchison Stirling, Dr. William Somerville, Prof. W. R. Sorley, Prof. Stirling, Mr. Thomas Shaw, M.P., Lord Mount-Stephen, Prof. J. J. Thomson, Dr. Thomas E. Thorpe, Prof. W. A. Tilden, Prof. G. D. Thane, Prof. Henry Turner, Prof. Giuseppe Veronese, Dr. J. A. Voelcker, Prof. Paul Vinogradoff, Prof. J. W. Wijhe, Prof. Weichselbaum, and Sir John Williams.

The following among other universities, colleges, and learned societies are to be represented by delegates:—University College, Bristol, Principal C. Lloyd Morgan; University of Cambridge, Dr. Henry Jackson, Dr. James Adam, and Mr. W. L. Mollison; University College, Cardiff, Dr. E. H. Griffiths; Trinity College, Dublin, Dr. Anthony Trail; Royal Society of Edinburgh, Lord MacLaren; Universities of Edinburgh, Glasgow, and St. Andrews; University of Leeds, Dr. Bodington; Royal Society of London, Sir Archibald Geikie; British Academy, Dr. J. A. H. Murray; Royal College of Physicians, Sir R. D. Powell; Royal College of Surgeons, Mr. Edmund Owen; University of Manchester, Dr. A. Hopkinson; University of Oxford, Dr. W. M. Merry, Prof. Henry Goudy, and Prof. Arthur Thomson; University of Wales, Principal H. R. Reichel; R. Accademia dei Lincei, Rome, Prof. Lanciani.