

coast by a westward drift of the American continent and a corresponding pressure on the ocean floor, seems not in harmony with the results which have now been found on the east coast; in this case the reverse might be expected—a negative anomaly above the foot of the continental slope behind the moving continent.

Before and after the expedition, base observations were made with the apparatus both in the gravity base station, Washington, of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, and in the Netherlands gravity base station, De Bilt. These observations provide, therefore, a new check on the comparison of Washington with the international base station Potsdam. The final computations and the application of the final corrections of the time-signals have to be awaited before any conclusions will be possible.

The expedition has doubtless meant an important step for geodetic and geophysical science: because of the immediate results of which a short sketch has been given in this article, but still more because of future possibilities should the U.S. Navy continue this research. Results of great importance and extent might then be expected. The expedition has been made possible by the co-operation of the U.S. Navy with the Carnegie Institution and the Dutch Geodetic Commission. Sincere thanks may be expressed to the Secretary of the U.S. Navy, the Hon. Curtis D. Wilbur; to Admiral Hughes, Chief of Naval Operations; to Admiral Leigh, Chief of the Bureau of Navigation; also to Captain Freeman, Superintendent of the Naval Observatory, for his indefatigable work in preparing the expedition.

Personally, I wish to acknowledge the kind reception accorded me everywhere, in Washington, in naval as well as in scientific circles, on board the U.S.S. *S-21* and the other ships, and ashore in the different ports which have been touched, where the naval authorities or, in St. Thomas, the Governor of the Virgin Islands, gave me a most cordial welcome.

### Zoological Exploration of Mongolia.

IN the summer, 1928, the Russian Academy of Sciences sent a zoological expedition to Mongolia, under the direction of A. Y. Tougarinov, who gives a short preliminary account of it in *Priroda*, No. 12, 1928. The problem of the expedition was the study of the Mongolian fauna to the east of Urga, a region which so far had not been zoologically investigated. The expedition took the route south-east of Urga. Plains, with occasional chains of comparatively low mountains, or individual peaks, distinguished by extreme poverty and uniformity of fauna, stretch east of Urga practically to Hingan.

The expedition was astonished by the great numbers of *Microtus brandti*, whose colonies stretch for tens of kilometres. There are no large mammals, with the exception of rare antelopes; at times colonies of tarbagans were met. The characteristic birds are *Halioæetus leucoryphus*, *Buteo hemilasius*, and the desert larks. Such poor landscape stretches up to Hingan, and only after 50 kilometres is a change observed. Owing to the humid conditions, the semi-desert is gradually transformed into a steppe, the herbaceous carpet is thicker, gramineous plants and other densely leaved steppe grasses are predominant. A grassy steppe takes the place of the xerophytic flora. The representatives of desert, such as the sandgrouse, disappear, and dwellers of steppe and forest begin to appear, which shelter in the elm forests of the valley of Chalhin-gol. Representatives of Manchurian fauna such as *Xanthopygia tricolor*, *Pica*

*sericea*, *Circus melanoleucus* are met with. The expedition observed a great flight of birds across Chalhin-gol, the species being characteristic of taiga and the tundra of eastern Siberia. It may be assumed that here around Mongolia and along Hingan lies the migratory route of east Siberian birds, the origin of which is known to have been in the south-east of Asia.

Summing up the character of the explored region, it may be said that besides the Mongolian and Manchurian provinces mentioned, the rest of eastern Mongolia may be considered as one district, the chief characteristic of which is the predominance of central Asiatic fauna. Series of species characteristic and usual to regions south of Urga are absent (for example, *Podoces hendersoni*, *Accentor fulvescens*, *Emberiza godlewskii*). Their absence cannot always be explained by the lack of suitable habitats. The Turanian elements and the forms of the southern Palæarctic are also absent. All this leads to the conclusion that recently the country has been exposed to conditions which have impoverished the fauna and hindered the spreading of forms from east and south. The extreme desert state and the xerothermic climate were probably the required conditions.

### University and Educational Intelligence.

CAMBRIDGE.—Dr. N. E. Goldsworthy, of Clare College, has been elected to the John Lucas Walker studentship for three years. This studentship was founded for the furtherance of original research in pathology and is of the value of £300 a year for three years.

Smith's prizes have been awarded to H. D. Ursell, of Clare College, and J. M. Whittaker, of Trinity College. Rayleigh prizes have been awarded to J. Hargreaves, of Clare College, J. G. Semple, of St. John's College, and S. Verblunsky, of Magdalene College.

EDINBURGH.—At the meeting of the Senatus held on Mar. 14, it was announced that His Royal Highness Prince George has consented to visit the University on May 15 to open the new Department of Zoology.

At the same meeting the Senatus resolved to offer the honorary degree of doctor of laws to the following among others: Prof. E. S. Goodrich, Linacre professor of zoology and comparative anatomy, University of Oxford; Prof. A. V. Hill, Foulerton research professor of the Royal Society; Prof. C. E. Inglis, professor of mechanics and applied mechanics, University of Cambridge; Dr. A. P. Laurie, formerly principal of Heriot-Watt College; Sir James Walker, emeritus-professor of chemistry of the University of Edinburgh; and the Right Hon. Baron Woolavington of Lavington.

MANCHESTER.—Sir Ronald Ross, Director-in-Chief of the Ross Institute and Hospital for Tropical Diseases, the discoverer of the life-history of malaria parasites in mosquitoes, is among those on whom it is proposed to confer the honorary degree of D.Sc. on May 15.

ST. ANDREWS.—H.R.H. The Duchess of York has signified her willingness to be present at the opening on June 28 of the Graduation Hall gifted to the University of St. Andrews by James Younger, of Mount Melville, St. Andrews, and Mrs. Younger. After performing the opening ceremony, Her Royal Highness will receive the honorary degree of doctor of laws.