

towards the close of 1935, and seven years before, about the same time of the year, the first record of the species in African waters was made when about a hundred came ashore at Kommetjie, some sixteen miles south of Cape Town.

Canadian Reindeer Herd

THE introduction of a herd of reindeer to Canada as an addition to the food resources of the far north has met with success. Notwithstanding the severity of the winter, the herd on its winter range east of the delta of Mackenzie River in the Northwest Territories is reported by the Office of the High Commissioner to be in good condition, and to number about 3,000. Surplus males to the number of 200 were slaughtered during the autumn and the carcasses used for food, while the hides were used for moccasins, mittens and other items of wearing apparel. The herd, accompanied by its herders, undertakes a regular north and south migration, moving northward along the arctic coast early in April and southward again in late autumn, grazing by the way over the hills and valleys of its reserve of 6,600 square miles.

American Research Grants

PART 3 of volume 76 of the *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society* contains the report for the first three years of its operation of the Committee on Research established by the Society. The Committee set apart 20,000 dollars in 1933, 45,000 dollars in 1934, 60,000 dollars in 1935, and 50,000 dollars in 1936. Ninety-eight grants have been made of the average value of 1,500 dollars: sixteen in zoology, fourteen each in physics and botany, ten in astronomy, nine each in geology and physiology, six in chemistry, five in archaeology and smaller numbers in other subjects. These grants are more generous than those made by the National Research Council but are less than those made by some of the great foundations. The Committee proposes to hold each year an autumn meeting at which the reports of grantees as to the progress of their researches will be read. The Committee would welcome suggestions for improving its methods of aiding research.

Research Grant Board, South Africa

THE recently issued report of the Research Grant Board, Union of South Africa, covers the period 1918-35. The Board was established in October 1918 as a result of a recommendation of the Advisory Board of Industry and Science, which had been formed earlier that year from an amalgamation of the Industries Advisory Board and "a Scientific and Technical Committee". It was at first proposed that the Research Grant Board should be attached to the Department of Agriculture, but after forming a sub-committee of the Advisory Board until the dissolution of the latter in 1923, it was attached to the Department of Mines and Industries until 1933, when it was transferred to the newly-formed Department of Commerce and Industries. While attached to one Department, the Board is regarded as serving all branches of Government, recognition being given to

this relationship by the presence on the Board of assessor members from other Departments. Initially, the Board's activities were confined to the encouragement of research in universities and museums, but its scope was speedily extended to embrace every branch of knowledge and to include the whole country irrespective of institutions.

ONE of the most important functions of the Board is the administration of Government grants in aid of research as well as research scholarships. It has also undertaken similar duties on behalf of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, which has allocated generous funds for research in South Africa. As at first constituted, the Board consisted of representatives of science and industry, together with the assessor members from Government Departments. When its scope was enlarged, members were added to represent other than scientific subjects. While ordinary members of the Board have been chosen with an eye to representation of all the interests concerned, they are regarded as serving wholly in their individual capacity and responsible only to the Minister. The success and efficiency of the Board are attributed largely to this arrangement and to the spirit of unity it engenders, and also to the excellence of its personnel and the unstinted manner in which they have given of their best to the work.

Carnegie Institution of Washington

THE report of the president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington for the year ending October 31, 1935, refers to developments in methods and organization of research in the Institution, particularly in the support of larger projects and the co-operation of fair-sized groups of individuals, as in the Geophysical Laboratory, Mount Wilson Observatory and the Department of Genetics. Its present organization is adapted not only to the advance of knowledge in new interlocking or overlapping areas of research, but also to bring back to each of the groups engaged upon special problems a wide range of materials otherwise not readily secured. Reference is made in the report to the progress of seismological research and of the investigations on terrestrial magnetism. Astronomical work has included study of the nova in Hercules, of stellar atmospheres, extra-galactic nebulae, measurement of the velocity of light and observations of sun-spot activity. Assistance has been given to research on cosmic rays and on the hydrodynamics of the atmosphere and major climatic variations. Numerous investigations have been carried out by the Department of Plant Biology, including the study of the influence of climatic environment on the life and development of living organisms, and by the Division of Animal Biology which includes the Department of Embryology, the Nutrition Laboratory and the Department of Genetics. Of outstanding interest are the activities of the Division of Historical Research, established in 1929, which has provided the opportunity to study history as science, art, culture, sociology and government in all phases with the application of scientific principles to the collection of materials and to the interpretation of the data