

EDITORIAL

THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL MEETING of the Wilson Ornithological Club will be held in St. Louis on December 30 and 31 of this year. Details can not be announced at this time, but they will be given in the Secretary's letter to all members in October. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the general sessions of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Our only previous meeting in St. Louis was held in 1919. Mr. A. F. Satterthwait will act as Chairman of our Local Committee, others members being named later.

DR. EMIL WITSCHI'S paper in this issue is another example of one of the new experimental methods of investigation in ornithology. His results indicate that the hypophysis, through its internal secretions, exercises a controlling effect on the reproductive cycle. To what extent other activities, migration for instance, are dependent upon the reproductive cycle is not yet determined. Likewise, just what regulates and controls the activity of the hypophyseal gland is unknown. Dr. Witschi also shows that the seasonal changes in plumage pattern of the male are controlled by gonadotropic hormones, but not in the female, at least in weaver finches. This experimental field affords the opportunity to re-examine many of the old ornithological ideas in the light of the new science of endocrinology; for example the phenomena of migration, molting period and sequence, feather pattern and plumage pattern, nest building, egg laying, and all the urges connected therewith. It is a search for causes, and is physiological.

DR. ALEXANDER WETMORE, of the United States National Museum, informs us that the next (Ninth) International Ornithological Congress will be held at Rouen, France, between the 1st and 15th of May, 1938. This is ample enough notice to enable those interested to plan for the occasion. It would seem to us, however, that the date is about a month too early for much of a delegation from this country.

In reading a biography of Dr. Edward Jenner, discoverer of vaccination for smallpox, we learned that he was a naturalist and lover of birds. The poem reproduced on the cover page of this issue was written by him at the age of twenty-one.

The article on the birds of the Fort Sisseton Region in this issue is published with the aid of a subsidy.