WEDNESDAY — ALL DAY

9:00 a.m., December 29: All Day Field Trip (Joint sessions with Herpetologists League and the Ecological Society of America).

HERBERT A. MASON, Leader

Beginning at west gate of Campus; to Marin County via Oakland and Golden Gate Bridges; field stops at Muir Woods National Monument (red-wood forest), Stinson Beach State Park (Pacific Ocean), and other points; return via San Rafael-Richmond ferry about 6:00 p.m. Bring your lunch. Tickets must be purchased before noon, December 28. Available at Ecological Society table in the foyer of the Gymnasium for Men or Forestry 159 during sessions of E.S.A.

THE SOCIETY'S "EMINENT ECOLOGIST"

Dr. Henry S. Conard

"Born and reared in a Quaker community (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September 12, 1874) where the study of natural history was the most approved outdoor sport and the contemplation of nature was a form of worship," Dr. Henry Shoemaker Conard began his career as a plant ecologist in childhood. "An early ambition was to see and know every vascular plant in the community. That meant learning what grows where. One could not avoid wondering why, as well."

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From this youthful interest in plants and their environments, Dr. Conard continued his botanical studies, receiving his B.A. and M.A. degrees at Haverford College and his Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania. His career as a teacher of botany began at Grinnell College in 1906 and continued there until he became an Emeritus Professor in 1944. His summers were spent as a lecturer at Cold Spring Harbor, the University of Iowa, and Harvard College and as a Ranger-Naturalist in Yellowstone National Park.

During these years of teaching and research Dr. Conard became an outstanding plant anatomist and taxonomist, publishing many papers on the Nymphaeaceae, the hay-scented fern, a flora of Iowa, How to Know the Mosses, The Mosses of Iowa, and the vegetation of saltmarshes, sand-spit, and denuded areas. For the last 25 years he has devoted most of his time to learning and teaching the mosses, and as a result of his work, bryophytic vegetation is now being included in many studies of general and applied plant sociology in America.

One of Dr. Conard's most important contributions has been his translation of Braun-Blanquet's Pflanzensoziologie, making this fundamental text available for the use of students unfamiliar with the German language. Another major work is his translation of Kerner's Pflanzenhaben der Donauländer, a rare book now available to American biologists through Dr. Conard's efforts.

His youthful interest in knowing why plants grow in certain locations has resulted also in The Vegetation of Iowa, a study of the plants of that state in sociological terms.

Now having celebrated his 80th birthday, Dr. Conard looks back on his long career as a taxonomist, anatomist, and ecologist, feeling that his primary motivation throughout the years has been "to help broaden and deepen the scope and foundation of North American ecology." The Ecological Society's decision to award Dr. Conard the newly created title of "Eminent Ecologist" reflects the general feeling of American ecologists that he has fulfilled this ambition to an outstanding degree, that he has contributed greatly to the study of ecology and that he has become truly eminent in this field.

THE GEORGE MERCER AWARD

Dr. F. H. Bormann of the Department of Biology at Emory University, Georgia, was named as this year's recipient of the Mercer Award at the annual dinner of the Society in Gainesville. Details of this award and its presentation to Dr. Bormann will appear in the next issue of the BULLETIN.

THE EAST LANSING MEETING

The A.I.B.S. has announced that East Lansing, Michigan, will be the site of its 1955 meeting. This will be held on the campus of the Michigan State College in early September. The Council of the Ecological Society voted to hold its annual meeting with the A.I.B.S. at this time, and President Hamilton has recently notified the Program Committee that Dr. John Cantlon of the Department of Botany at Michigan State College has agreed to serve as the Chairman of the Local Committee for the Society. Dr. Eugene P. Odum of the Department of Biology, University of Georgia at Athens, continues as Chairman of the Program Committee for the Society. Suggestions for the program should be sent to either or both Drs. Cantlon or Odum.