

and author of that great book "Our Plundered Planet" has kindly sent a message to our Society. It is given below.

I finish by saying that I believe these personal contacts, when they can be arranged, are invaluable and help to smooth the way for the innumerable international problems which are bound to crop up in endeavouring to further the aims of our Society and the preservation and conservation of nature as a whole.

WILLINGDON.

*A Message to the Members of the Fauna Preservation Society from
Mr. Fairfield Osborn*

WILDERNESS

There are essences in human life which defy analysis. Who can measure the influence upon the human spirit of an inspiring passage of music or of a radiant line of poetry or prose? The inner being of man is forever something apart from utilitarian or material influences. The story of Christ going into the wilderness has been accepted through the ages not merely as a symbol but as an essential episode in the personality of an individual. "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help" is a prayer flowing naturally from the human heart that senses the oneness of the individual and the natural world.

Our era is one of pressures from without. There is nothing startling in this—it is the way of man, indeed of all life. Faiths have always required defence as have all precious things. Among the latter is "wilderness". We in America still possess such regions, a diminishing few—sanctuaries where even the wildest creatures are quiet and at home. Let's not let them disappear—they give strength to those who go to them, and always will.

FAIRFIELD OSBORN.

THE SOCIETY'S BUSINESS

NOTICE OF A GENERAL MEETING

A General Meeting of the Society will take place at the Offices of the Zoological Society of London on Tuesday, 2nd December, 1952, at 4.15 p.m.

Agenda

- (1) Minutes of the last Meeting.
- (2) Current work—a brief report by the Secretary.
- (3) Questions and suggestions.
- (4) Wild Life Conservation in the Luangwa Valley, Northern Rhodesia. A talk, with films, by Mr. R. I. G. Attwell, Biologist.

Tea, 1s. per person, will be served in the Zoological Society's Library at 3.45 p.m. Members are invited to bring friends.

The Council.—Quarterly Council Meetings were held on 17th July and 16th October. A summary of the points of interest to members generally is given below.

It was decided to defer until 1953 the question of making a charge for borrowing the Society's films. It was noted that two of the films had been most usefully exhibited in Nyasaland and that films were being sent this winter to societies in the Gold Coast, Nigeria, Ceylon, and India.

It was agreed that Mr. R. S. R. Fitter should represent the Society at a conference which was being called by the British Field Sports Society to consider the effect on wild life of the spraying of insecticides and other poisons.

Note was taken of an article which appeared in the *Manchester Guardian* of 4th September, 1952. This drew attention to the imprisonment by a Bavarian court of a gamekeeper who had burnt down the huts used by himself and his fellow foresters so as to deny their use to American occupation troops who "like to storm through his forests with burp-guns or spatter the shy and therefore distant chamois with machine-gun bullets". A letter was read from Count von Dönhoff, Secretary-General of the Deutscher Jagdschutz-Verband, thanking the Society for its interest and saying that American shooting was much more orderly than it used to be and quite under control of the American and German authorities combined. It was hoped that the damage done to wild life by indiscriminate shooting would be repaired within a few years.

Annual General Meeting, 1953.—The date of the Annual General Meeting was fixed for the 1st April, 1953.

Council Meetings, 1953.—The following dates were fixed: 8th January; 26th February; 21st May; 16th July; 22nd October.

Change of Address.—Will members please notify the Secretary immediately of changes in address.