

sophical Society, the structure and grounds, with a military band in attendance, will make a convenient general rendezvous throughout the week.

A further edition of a very interesting work, 'Glimpses of Ancient Leicester,' by a local author, Mrs. Fielding Johnson, is being issued in connection with this meeting, and a handbook by another Leicester lady, Mrs. Nuttall, will be provided. The latter book will contain chapters on subjects of scientific interest prepared by various experts specially for the use of visitors.

Excursions are being arranged to many points of interest in the district, and the Mayor, Alderman Sir Edward Wood, J.P., will issue invitations to an evening fête in the Abbey Park. Sir Samuel Faire, J.P., will give a garden-party, and it may be taken for granted that the social side of the meeting will be well provided for. The comfort and enjoyment of all attending the meeting will not be overlooked, while the objects of the existence and visit of the association will throughout the week have the first consideration and thought.

#### THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

THE American Museum of Natural History, New York, will hereafter be open to the public free of charge at all times. Mr. Morris K. Jesup, president, has addressed the following letter to Dr. Hermon C. Bumpus, the director of the museum:

From the time of the founding of the American Museum of Natural History—now nearly forty years ago—certain days of each week have been reserved for 'members,' pupils of the public schools, special students and artists, the public being admitted on these days (Mondays and Tuesdays) only on the payment of an admission fee. Although this is almost a universal custom, I am convinced that its continuation by the American Museum is now of doubtful expediency.

This reservation really amounts to the closing of our doors to the public for approximately one-third of the time, and while, for reasons of economy, it may have been necessary during our early history, we should not forget that the American Museum is a municipal institution, it is primarily

for the public, and any regulation that interferes with the general enjoyment of its privileges is contrary to the spirit of its founders and opposed to the wishes of its supporters.

The growth of the museum during the last few years has made it possible to accommodate large bodies of school children without interfering materially with the use of the exhibition halls by adults. Special students are now given laboratory facilities well removed from visitors, and artists have long found every encouragement for their work in private rooms or in portions of the gallery temporarily partitioned off for their use.

It is true that free admission to the museum on Mondays and Tuesdays has long been enjoyed as one of the many 'privileges of membership,' but I thoroughly believe that those who have contributed and are contributing towards the support of this institution are not actuated by selfish motives; they contribute because they believe in the work that the museum is doing and because they derive pleasure from being associated with it.

I wish therefore—and in this I believe I have the support of the entire board of trustees—that until further notice arrangements be made to have the American Museum of Natural History open daily and its exhibition halls absolutely free to all.

In forwarding a copy of this letter to members of the museum, the director says:

The enclosed letter of President Jesup will meet the hearty approval of all interested in the welfare and development of public educational institutions.

When the American Museum was relatively small, and the exhibition halls were consequently often overcrowded, there were valid reasons for restricting the attendance on certain days, but with the recent growth and the provision of special facilities for students and others specially interested, these reasons no longer exist. The attendance is constantly growing, and it is a matter of common remark that those visiting the museum are seriously interested. They are orderly, intelligent and earnest. The museum is not a resort for the idle. The location is such as generally to require the expenditure of considerable time in travel on the part of the visitor, and although the admission fee has been small, it is nevertheless more than many can afford, and hundreds, even thousands, have been turned away thereby.

It is thought that this action on the part of President Jesup is in the line of progress, and it will doubtless add materially to the already large number who are identified with the museum as

members or patrons, since it is in accord with the prevailing ideas that underlie all educational work, viz., that sources of information should not be surrounded by barriers, and that agencies of instruction should be kept constantly active.

Moreover, it should not be forgotten that there are now many privileges extended to members. They receive the *Journal* and, on request, copies of all 'Guide Leaflets.' The member's ticket admits to the evening lectures, which are arranged exclusively for members and their friends, and to the various laboratories, workrooms and other portions of the building not open to the public. The appointment of an instructor, Mrs. Roesler, makes it possible for the guests of members to be received at the museum and shown about the building; or members may leave their children with Mrs. Roesler for a few hours for instruction in the various exhibition halls.

#### SECOND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS

THE second annual meeting of the American Association of Museums will be held at the Carnegie Institute in Pittsburg June 4-6.

Owing to the unavoidable absence of Dr. Hermon C. Bumpus, who has sailed for Europe, the duty of making all arrangements has devolved upon Dr. W. J. Holland, director of the Carnegie Museum, who has associated with himself Mr. John W. Beatty, the director of the department of fine arts of the Carnegie Institute. Those who propose to attend the meeting of the association are requested to communicate directly with Dr. Holland, who requests more particularly that all who intend to present papers at the meeting will inform him at the earliest possible date of the titles of the papers which they intend to present, so that arrangements may be properly made for the program of the meeting.

Hotel accommodations in the city of Pittsburg are ample, and arrangements have been made with three of the leading hotels, which offer the following rates:

##### *Hotel Schenley—European Plan*

Single room, one person .....	\$2 00
Single room, one person, with bath .....	3 00

For two persons occupying the same room as a special concession, the same rates will be charged as for single occupants.

##### *Hotel Lincoln—European Plan*

Single room, one person .....	\$1 50
Single room, one person, with bath .....	2 00
Double room from \$3.00 up.	
Double room, with bath, from \$5.00 up.	

##### *Fort Pitt Hotel—European Plan*

Single room .....	\$1 50 to \$3 50
Single room, with bath .....	2 50 to 3 50
Double room .....	2 00 to 3 00
Double room, with bath .....	3 50 to 5 00

The Schenley Hotel, which is very near to the Carnegie Institute, will be made hotel headquarters.

Those who attend the meeting, the sessions of which will begin on the morning of Tuesday, June 4, at 10 A.M., will register in the library of the Carnegie Museum.

It is hoped that not only those who are at present members of the association, but all who are interested in museums and their work will identify themselves with the association. Under the terms of the constitution it is provided that,

Persons actively engaged in the work of Museums may become Active Members on the payment of two dollars per annum, and may become Active Members for Life upon payment of thirty dollars at any one time.

Persons not actively engaged in the work of Museums, contributing five dollars per annum, may become Associate Members.

Each Museum paying not less than ten dollars a year shall be a Sustaining Member of the Association, and through its chief executive officer, or a properly accredited representative, shall be entitled to cast a vote on all matters coming before the Association.

The association already enrolls in its membership nearly two hundred individuals and museums.

The magnificent new buildings of the Carnegie Institute, the home of the Carnegie Museum and the Carnegie Art Gallery, which were dedicated on April 11, will furnish an inspiration to those who attend the meeting. The annual international exhibit of paintings, which will not close until the middle of June, will still be on exhibition. This is regarded by art critics as the finest and most representative display of pictures which has been seen in this country since the time of the Exposi-