

unpacked in the laboratories of the American Museum. The work has been supervised by Assistant Curator N. C. Nelson, under the immediate direction of Mr. Earl H. Morris, also of the American Museum.

The seventy thousand specimens already recovered from the Aztec Ruin constituted one of the most complete collections representative of a prehistoric North American culture which have thus far been obtained. Trained preparators are working with the material, and in the near future a representative selection will be placed on exhibit in the Museum's Southwest Hall.

One of the most important phases of the explorations at Aztec is the repair and preservation of the ruin. As fast as the walls are uncovered, masons replace the stones which have disintegrated, and strengthen the portions of the structure which threatened to collapse. The intention is to make of the ruin a permanent monument to the aborigines of the Southwest rivalling in importance the Mesa Verde National Park.

THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND THE MCKAY BEQUEST

PRESIDENT RICHARD C. MACLAURIN in his annual report to the corporation of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in referring to the recent decree of the Supreme Court with reference to the agreement between the Institute and Harvard University says that this agreement marked an epoch in the history of educational progress in this country. The end sought was to build up an educational machine more useful to the community and to the nation than anything that could be maintained by either the institute or the university, acting independently. Dr. MacLaurin writes:

The plan adopted by the two corporations nearly three years ago has in the meanwhile been put to the actual test of experience and has met that test well. Most, if not all, of the difficulties that were anticipated by some have either not presented themselves at all or have been easily overcome. The educational power both of the institute and the university has been greatly strengthened and the cause of science that is applicable to the service of man greatly promoted by this combination

of forces. . . . Unfortunately, however, the funds that the university has at its disposal for the promotion of the great science of engineering are almost wholly dependent on the income from the Gordon McKay Endowment, and the Supreme Court has decreed that this income can not be applied in the manner indicated by the agreement. . . .

It remains to be seen whether another plan can be drawn up that is equally or nearly equally, workable and effective as an educational instrument and that accords with the view of the court regarding Mr. McKay's intentions. We should be false to our educational trust if we did not give this matter due consideration and earnestly seek a satisfactory way out. If intimate cooperation between these two institutions was demanded by the exigencies of the situation before the war, it is still more urgently demanded now. With the serious problems that this nation must face during the war and the equally serious problems that must be dealt with in the period of reconstruction thereafter, needless duplication of effort and needless dissipation of energy would be in a high degree reprehensible. . . .

As far as the institute is concerned in the near future the abandonment of this agreement would be much less serious in its financial aspects than seems generally to be supposed. This arises from the fact that the actual amount of income available from the Gordon McKay Endowment has been greatly exaggerated in certain quarters. According to the testimony before the court, all that the university has available at present is the income from less than two and one quarter millions. Under the agreement Harvard does not turn any of this income over to the institute, but appropriates a portion of it for the maintenance of courses leading to Harvard degrees, these courses being conducted at the institute. The amount thus appropriated since the agreement went into operation has been \$100,000 annually, the major part of this having been employed in paying the salaries of the university's professors and instructors. The whole amount is less than one tenth of the annual expenditure of the institute. It must not be supposed, therefore, that the institute will be crippled financially if the agreement with the university is abandoned.

THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

THE American Philosophical Society will hold its annual general meeting at Philadelphia on April 18, 19 and 20. Dr. William B.

Scott, professor of zoology at Princeton University, will preside, succeeding Dr. W. W. Keen, who after ten years of distinguished service would not permit himself to be re-elected.

The general lecture will be given in the hall of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania on the evening of April 19, by Lieutenant Colonel R. A. Millikan, of the Department of Science and Research of the Council of National Defence, whose subject will be "Science in relation to the war."

The annual dinner will be held at the University Club, on the evening of April 20.

On the afternoon of April 20, there will be a symposium on "Food-problems in relation to the war" the program of which is as follows:

Introductory Remarks, by Herbert C. Hoover, B.A., U. S. Food Administrator, and by Alonzo E. Taylor, M.D., professor of physiological chemistry, University of Pennsylvania.

"Physiological effects of prolonged reduced diet on twenty-five men," by Francis G. Benedict, Ph.D., Sc.D., director of the Nutrition Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

"Food conservation from the standpoint of the chemistry of nutrition," by Henry C. Sherman, Ph.D., professor of food chemistry, Columbia University, New York City.

"Some economic aspects of the American food supply," by J. Russell Smith, Ph.D., professor of industry, Wharton School of Finance and Commerce, University of Pennsylvania.

"Food control and food conservation in the United States Army," by John R. Murlin, major, Sanitary Corps, N. A.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

At a meeting held on March 19, the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia elected as correspondents, John H. Comstock, Herbert S. Jennings, Frank R. Lillie, Alfred G. Mayer, John C. Merriam, George H. Parker and Charles R. Van Hise.

At a meeting of the Rumford Committee of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences held on March 13 last the following grants for research were voted: To Professor F. K. Richtmyer, of Cornell University, in aid of his researches on the optical properties of

thin films (additional to a former appropriation), \$500. To Professor Arthur L. Foley, of the University of Indiana, for his research on the photography of the electric spark at different periods of its history, \$150. To Professor Orin Tugman, of the University of Utah, for his research on the conductivity of thin metal films when exposed to ultra-violet light, \$100.

THE following fifteen candidates have been selected by the council of the Royal Society to be recommended for election into the society: Charles Bolton, Henry C. H. Carpenter, Thomas A. Chapman, Gerald P. L. Conyngnam, C. Clifford Dobell, Ernest Gold, Henry B. Guppy, Albert G. Hadcock, Archibald V. Hill, James C. Irvine, Thomas Lewis, Srinivasa Ramanujan, Arthur W. Rogers, Samuel Smiles and Frank E. Smith.

THE Paris Academy of Sciences has elected two national correspondents for the sections of anatomy and zoology. M. Vayssière, professor of the faculty of sciences at Marseilles, has been elected to take the place of the late M. Renaut, and M. Cuénot, professor at the University of Nancy, has been elected to take the place of the late M. Maupas.

THE introduction of compulsory rationing in Great Britain and the discontinuance of the voluntary propaganda department has led the food controller to reorganize the food economy division of the ministry hitherto conducted by Sir Arthur Yapp. It will now consist of four branches: public services food consumption, national kitchens, public catering, and an educational branch under the direction of Professor E. H. Starling, F.R.S. The coordination and control of the departments will be exercised by a Food Survey Board, of which the directors of the several departments will be members, with Lieutenant Colonel A. G. Weigall, M.P., as chairman.

PROFESSOR W. W. WATTS, professor of geology at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, has been elected a member of the Athenæum Club, London, for "eminence in science."