

mercial Boston had many a stipend for investigation or travel at his suggestion. Nowhere in the world is to be found a counterpart of the superb representation of our flowers in glass made by the Blaschkas under his direction as curator of the botanical museum of Harvard, with the financial backing of Mrs. Ware and her daughter. Those who really knew him loved him. Since the passing of Professor Gray, a generation ago, the memory of my infrequent visits to Cambridge has been brightened by contact with Professor Goodale and one or more of the enthusiastic unprofessional botanists who were his intimate friends and with whom he continued to share the curious interest in nature that is the foundation of most really serviceable work in botany, either didactic or productive; an interest of which the beginnings are to be found recorded here and there in herbarium specimens of choice Maine plants collected in the early days when he was called on to teach "natural science, mineralogy, botany and applied chemistry" at Bowdoin College.

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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

MOTION PICTURE OF THE TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN¹

THERE have been in the past several proposals to take a cinema film of a total eclipse of the sun, but the first real outcome of these proposals is the film now being shown at the Royal Albert Hall. The pictures illustrate the experiences and the work of the astronomers of the expedition, under Professor W. W. Campbell, to Wallal, on the northwest coast of Australia, from the time they left Perth until after the eclipse on September 21. The journey to Broome was made on the S.S. *Charon* and afterwards on the lugger *Gwendoline*, towed by a lighthouse tender, to Ninety Mile Beach. On account of the great rise and fall of the tides, the ship had to anchor five miles out, and the astronomers with all their baggage had to be landed in boats through the surf. The equipment was then transported on donkey wagons

to the site selected for the camp and in this work the aboriginal inhabitants of the country, both men and women, gave considerable assistance. The large amount of dust, which rose in clouds wherever there was any work being done, caused great inconvenience. Nevertheless a large camp was soon set up and the assembling of the instruments commenced. The process of erection of the tower telescope and of the equatorials and cœlostats, as well as the various rehearsals in changing plates and uncovering object-glasses, are well illustrated. The part of the film showing the solar corona is good, considering that it was taken with a cinema lens, but a better picture could easily be constructed from the negatives taken by the eclipse party.

The film will enable those who are interested in scientific work to appreciate the difficulties which eclipse observers often have to face. Large and cumbersome instruments have to be transported long distances and often erected in almost inaccessible places where little or no skilled labor can be obtained. The conditions at Wallal were probably more difficult than usual, but were bravely faced and overcome. A wireless apparatus was erected to keep the eclipse party in communication with the outside world and a weekly aeroplane service was instituted. The film is well worth seeing by those interested in the work of scientific expeditions. It would have been too much to expect that a film of this kind, taken under such difficult conditions, would come up to the standard of films produced by special actors in artificial conditions. However, the fact that the actual work of the astronomers is interspersed with pictures illustrating the life of the natives should make the film one of more general interest. With these additions the showing of the film takes a little over an hour. The attempt to produce a film showing the actual work of a scientific expedition is one which deserves every encouragement and we wish it every success.

CANADIAN STATIONS IN THE ARCTIC

THE *Royal Geographical Journal*, quoting from the annual report for 1921-22 of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, gives details of the progress lately made towards the establishment of fixed administrative stations

¹ From *Nature*.