

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 SUN<sup>1</sup>

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

<sup>1</sup> From *Nature*.

in the Arctic Islands over which the Dominion exercises control. The previous report had described the establishment of the police detachment at Ponds Inlet, one of three posts which it was intended to establish, the plan being to place the other two on North Devon and Ellesmere islands respectively. In July, 1922, the C.G.S. *Arctic*, Captain Bernier, sailed from Quebec with Inspector Wilson—a commissioned officer—and eight other ranks of the police, the Department of the Interior being represented by Mr. J. D. Craig. She carried building materials and stores for two of the posts, those for the North Devon post being left to be taken north in 1923. The entrance to Ponds Inlet was reached on August 15, but, pack-ice making it impossible to enter, the *Arctic* proceeded to Jones Sound. Ice likewise blocked Fram Fiord, on the south coast of Ellesmere Island, which had been chosen as the site of the post; but a fairly suitable place was found on the shore opposite Smith Island and here Inspector Smith decided to winter, the landing of stores being completed after hard work on August 28. The spot has been named Craig Harbor and here the inspector remains with one non-commissioned officer and five constables. A postoffice has been established, but it can hardly be expected to function for any large part of the year. As the headquarters of the three northern detachments it is thought that Dundas Harbor on the south coast of North Devon offers the best advantages, Lancaster Sound being usually clear of ice for a longer time than Jones Sound. The stores, etc., for Ponds Inlet were landed on the return voyage early in September, access to the post being still much hampered by ice. From the west of Arctic Canada it is reported that the headquarters of the "Arctic" Sub-district are being removed from Herschel Island to Aklavik in the Mackenzie delta, which has of late become the trading center of the district. Fort Macpherson is being abandoned, while the Tree River detachment is being strengthened and a new detachment will be established at Cambridge Bay, on the south coast of Victoria Island, about two hundred miles from Tree River, itself a very remote post. The report states that in April, 1922, a patrol visited Mr. Knud Rasmussen's camp on an island near Melville peninsula.

#### THE CONGRESS OF THE GERMAN SOCIETY FOR INTERNAL MEDICINE<sup>1</sup>

THE German Society for Internal Medicine, which meets every two years in Wiesbaden, has arranged to hold its meeting every alternate year in another large German town and Vienna was chosen for this year. Professor Wenckebach organized the convention. More than 1,400 physicians took part in the proceedings, including visitors from northern Europe, Asia, Italy and the New World, so that this meeting was really international, the first of its kind in Vienna since 1913. The proceedings were grouped under three heads: (1) epidemic (lethargic) encephalitis; (2) hypertension and (3) internal secretion. Two eminent men were asked to give an introductory report on each of these subjects, one dealing chiefly with the anatomic or physiologic, the other with the clinical side of the problem.

In connection with the congress, an exhibition of the latest achievements of chemistry, electrotherapeutics and medical technic was opened, in which the changes brought about by these factors in the medical armamentarium were well illustrated. The blood pressure apparatus, the microscope, the fluoroscope, the roentgenogram and metabolimeter are now indispensable and ready-made pills and hypodermics are always at hand.

The scientific program was carried out in magnificent surroundings in the reception hall of the former emperors of Austria, which was selected and adapted for the purpose. The municipality of Vienna and the president of the republic gave receptions in honor of the guests, and social gatherings and excursions to neighboring watering places and health resorts in the Alps served to relieve the sober work of the convention. The scientific proceedings lasted from April 9 to 12, with Professor Wenckebach in the chair. As a large number of papers and reports were presented, with the exception of the introductory papers, ten minutes was allowed for each paper and discussion was limited to four minutes.

#### EXPERIMENTS ON LIVING ANIMALS

At the fifth annual stated meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists, held May

<sup>1</sup> From the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.