

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM

THE annual report of the British Museum for 1922 records that the number of visitors to the museum continues to rise. The total for 1922 was 979,297, an increase of 78,000 over the preceding year, and the highest figure recorded in this century. Of these visitors, 918,354 came on week-days and 60,943 on Sundays. The visits of students to particular departments also increased, though in a smaller proportion. The visits to the reading room were 164,775, as against 159,177; those to the newspaper room 10,941, as against 10,034; and those to other departments 31,291, as against 27,391.

The number of separate objects incorporated in the collections in 1922 was 388,566, as compared with 369,335 in 1921, the most striking increase being in the Department of Coins and Medals.

The total number of visitors to the Natural History Museum during 1922 was 498,841, as compared with 479,476 in 1921. The attendance on Sunday afternoons was 74,197, as against 61,511 in the previous year, and the number of persons present at the demonstrations of the official guide during the year was 14,515, an increase of 1,040 on the number—13,475—for 1921. The average daily attendance for all open days was 1,374; for week-days, 1,370; and for Sunday afternoons, 1,400.

At the beginning of November the Northern Geological Galleries were added to those open to the public on Sunday afternoons, thus removing the last remaining difference between Sundays and week-days with regard to the exhibition galleries open to visitors.

THE BUREAU OF PHYSICO-CHEMICAL STANDARDS AT BRUSSELS

THE function of the Bureau of Physico-Chemical Standards, established by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, is the study of the preparation of standard substances to be used as reference substances for physico-chemical measurements carried out in the various laboratories of the world. Samples of the following standard substances are now available for distribution to the chemists of those countries belonging to the union.

A. Standard substances prepared at Brussels and intended primarily for the calibration of low temperature thermometers. The freezing points of the following substances reproduce to $\pm 0.1^\circ$, the scale of the helium thermometer of the Cryogenic Laboratory of the University of Leyden (*Compt. rend.*, Vol. 174, p. 365, 1922).

Carbon tetrachloride	— 22° , 9
Chlorobenzene	— 45° , 2

Chloroform	— 63° , 5
Ethyl acetate	— 83° , 6
Carbon disulphide	— 111° , 6
Ether (stable form)	— 116° , 3
Ether (metastable form)	— 123° , 3
Methyleyclohexane	— 126° , 3

Fifty cc. samples of each of these substances are available in ampoule at 25 Belgian francs per sample. All orders should be addressed directly to the bureau. Other materials are in course of preparation.

B. Supplementing the preparations of the bureau are the following standard materials prepared by the U. S. Bureau of Standards at Washington and obtainable directly from that Bureau (Bureau of Standards Circular No. 25): Cane-sugar, for calorimetry and saccharimetry; naphthalene, for calorimetry; benzoic acid, for calorimetry; sodium oxalate, for oxidimetry; dextrose, for use as a reducing agent; benzoic acid, for acidimetry; tin, zinc, aluminum, copper and lead, with stated melting point, for use in thermocouple calibration.

All the above standard samples are accompanied by instructions for use.

The Bureau of Physico-Chemical Standards plans to act as a center for the study of pure materials, and it requests that authors of papers in this field send reprints of their papers to the bureau. It also hopes that industrial organizations may be willing to contribute to the bureau materials which may be used as the starting point for the preparation of highly purified substances.

THE MOORE SCHOOL OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

THROUGH a merger with the Moore School of Electrical Engineering, provided for in the will of the late Alfred Fitler Moore, as a memorial to his parents, the University of Pennsylvania is to become the seat of one of the best-equipped and endowed schools of electrical engineering in America. This became known through an announcement by Provost Josiah H. Penniman of an agreement between the Moore trustees and the trustees of the university by which the two are to be merged under the name of the Moore School of Electrical Engineering. The new school is to have the income from a fund of \$1,500,000 left by Mr. Moore, as well as the funds hitherto at the disposal of the university's electrical engineering department.

In announcing the establishment of the new school, Provost Penniman said:

The university has already available in its present engineering building sufficient space for this new school, at least for the present, and also ample modern equipment to take care of the present needs of this school; for the entire equipment of the electrical engineering