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°, 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
Chlorbenzene	— 45°, 2
Chloroform	— 63°, 5
Ethyl acetate	— 83°, 6
Carbon disulphide	—111°, 6
Ether (stable form)	—116°, 3
Ether (metastable form)	—123°, 3
Methylcyclohexane	—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

department of the university will become the equipment of the Moore School of Electrical Engineering.

The income from the Moore fund will be available to meet the yearly expenditures necessary to provide instruction of the highest grade in electrical engineering. The increased income thus rendered available for training students of electrical engineering will be used not only to improve what we have already found to be good, but also to develop the subjects through original investigation carried on by faculty and students, so that the school will almost at once take a foremost position among schools of electrical engineering.

There will be additions made to the teaching staff to make it possible to give to each student individual and intimate and personal attention, and these additions will be men of ability as inspiring teachers and also investigators of recognized standing.

The new school, which will probably be ready for operation in the fall, will bear somewhat the same relationship to the university as does the Thomas W. Evans Institute, which is the School of Dentistry of the university. Mr. Moore, who was a manufacturer of insulated wire, died on September 18, 1912. Under the terms of his will, his estate was retained in trust during the lifetime of his wife, Emily Louisa Moore, who died this year.

DARWINISM AND MR. BRYAN

A PRESS dispatch to the daily press from Atlanta under the date of July 24 reads:

Organization of Southern Legislatures against the menace, as he sees it, of the teachings of Darwinism or agnosticism in public schools, is apparently the present undertaking of William Jennings Bryan. In the past several months Mr. Bryan has visited virtually every general assembly in the south, and asked the legislators to go on record as opposed to the teaching of such doctrines. So far as known he has met with more than fair success.

A measure cropped up in the Georgia Assembly yesterday which if adopted would give it as the "sense" of that body against the teaching at all of atheism or agnosticism and of Darwinism as truth in any of the State's public institutions. Mr. Bryan spoke in behalf of such measures several days ago.

When the Florida Legislature was in session in April and May, Mr. Bryan appeared with a prepared speech against those who believe they descended from monkeys, the disbelievers and those who profess ignorance. A resolution placing that assembly on record as opposed to anti-religious teachings in the public schools of that state was passed. He also went before the Arkansas Legislature and others.

The stereotyped resolution as written by Mr. Bryan for presentation in the various state assemblies has been modified and seldom encounters any opposition now. The insertion of the words "as truth" in the reference to the teachings of Darwinism has served to embarrass opposition.

AWARD OF THE DANIEL GIRAUD ELLIOT MEDAL

THE committee of the Daniel Giraud Elliot Medal desires to receive nominations for the awards of the years 1921 and 1922, which are still open, because the committee has not been able to reach unanimous conclusion on any work thus far brought to its attention. The Elliot Medal is awarded for some especially great contribution, not for general accomplishment, in the field of either zoology or paleontology. It is not restricted in either branch to the vertebrates, but may be made in either the vertebrate or invertebrate field and is open to scientists of the world. Some idea of the character of the award may be gained from a review of the previous awards, which were made in 1917 to Frank M. Chapman for his "Distribution of Bird Life in Colombia," in 1918 to William Beebe for his "Monograph of the Pheasants," in 1919 to Robert Ridgway for his "Birds of North and Middle America" (Part VIII), and in 1920 to Othenio Abel for his "Methoden der Palaobiologischen Forschung." The award of the beautiful gold medal is accompanied by a generous honorarium. The committee desires to receive further nominations for the two years mentioned, namely, 1921 and 1922, and also for 1923. Communications should be addressed to the Secretary of the National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D. C.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

AT the last meeting of the Botanical Society of America, provisions were put into effect for the election of corresponding members from among distinguished contributors to the science of botany. The first members elected were Professor Hugo de Vries, of Holland, and Professor F. O. Bower, of Glasgow.

DR. D. T. MACDOUGAL, of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, has been elected an honorary fellow of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh.

DR. RALPH L. THOMPSON, St. Louis, has resigned as professor of pathology at St. Louis University School of Medicine, following twenty years of service. The university has decided to name the museum the Ralph L. Thompson Collection of Pathological Specimens.

EUGENE H. POOL, M.D., of New York, has been awarded a distinguished service medal with the following citation: "As surgical consultant with the 4th Corps, 5th Corps, and then the 1st Army, he displayed unusual organizing ability, excellent judgment, and professional attainments of the highest order in directing the work of surgical teams in the care of large numbers of wounded in various hos-