

different from those existing between Dr. Biggs and the many other organizations of which he was a member. It was Dr. Biggs who first suggested the establishment of this council. It was his clear vision of the desirability of separating administrative from legislative duties in the field of health, and of placing the latter in the hands of a group, which led the legislature and executive of this state, in 1913, in the revision of the public health law, to create the Public Health Council, and to endow it with quasi-legislative authority.

Dr. Biggs was chairman of the council from its organization until his death. While his official position and his exceptional experience gave him at all times a very great influence in the council, he always sought the consensus of opinion of the council on all important matters of policy. The development of a sanitary code, dealing with matters which the staff of the department and its local representatives were able to manage administratively, has been the chief duty of the council. Not infrequently, however, at council meetings, all routine matters were brushed aside by the commissioner, in order to bring forward some proposed policy or action on which he desired the advice of the council. It is indicative of Dr. Biggs' wise caution that before action he sought to clarify his own judgment and opinions in the light of group discussion.

To every member of the council it has been one of the most interesting and gratifying experiences of life to observe the consistent and continuous development of the policy and the organization of the State of New York in public health under Dr. Biggs' direction. His plans were always far-sighted and comprehensive, but he was always ready to take, at any time, those steps which might then be practicable. If further advances were blocked in one direction, he sought opportunities of moving forward in other directions. Thus, step by step, we have been privileged to witness the development of one of the most important branches of the state government from relatively small beginnings into one of the most complete and effective of public health organizations. The council feels itself unable to indicate in any adequate way the loss to the people of this state which is involved in the death of Dr. Biggs.

His personal qualities, his patience, his soundness of judgment, his unerring estimate of public opinion, his skill in the selection of assistants, and in securing from them their loyal support and the best work of which they were capable, these, as also his many other exceptional gifts, were universally recognized.

The council deplors the death of Dr. Biggs and inspired by his work pledges itself to renewed devotion to the cause for which he labored so fruitfully.

THE DEANSHIP OF THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE OF THE UNIVER- SITY OF ARKANSAS

THE agricultural interests of Arkansas are deeply concerned in the choice of the new dean of the College of Agriculture of the University of Arkansas. The

entire faculty of that college has addressed to President J. C. Futrall the following letter on the subject:

In view of the fact that the success of the College of Agriculture in its several branches, namely, teaching, station and extension work, and that the working conditions surrounding the members of the staff are in very great measure dependent upon the actions and policies of the dean and director, we trust that we may, without impropriety, set before you our views concerning the type of man that should be appointed to this position:

As director of the teaching in the college, he should be thoroughly familiar with the modern trend of education in agricultural colleges.

As head of the agricultural extension forces, he should be a man who has a grasp of the problems peculiar to that branch of service.

In our judgment, since the Agricultural Experiment Station is the branch of the work that must continually vitalize and enrich all the others, the dean and director should be a man who, through first-hand experience, understands the methods and purposes of modern agricultural experiment.

It is, therefore, highly desirable that the dean and director should have had recent experience in an agricultural college and experiment station lines of activity that have brought him into intimate contact with the problems of such an institution.

While we believe it is desirable to appoint a dean as soon as may be, yet we feel strongly that wise discretion should not be sacrificed to haste in this important matter.

We respectfully request that these suggestions be seriously considered, and that they be transmitted to the board of trustees of the university.

THE SCIENTIFIC EXHIBITION AT THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION MEETING

THERE is printed in *Nature* an article by Mr. M. A. Giblett on the scientific exhibition at Liverpool in which he says:

The ninety-first annual meeting of the British Association, which has just drawn to a close at Liverpool, was characterized by a new and important departure in the form of an exhibition of scientific apparatus, instruments and diagrams. The exhibition was on the lines of that organized each year in London by the Physical and Optical Societies, which is so effective in bringing together the users and makers of physical apparatus, but its scope was naturally wider, and many branches of pure and applied science were represented.

In opening the exhibition on Monday, September 10, Sir Charles Sherrington commented upon the comprehensive and representative character of the exhibits, remarking that it was very appropriate that such a collection should be brought together, and that this—the first of its kind—constituted a definite

development in the history of the British Association. He further referred to the remarkable advances in the making of scientific instruments during the last three hundred years, to the ever-growing importance of instrumentation, and to the unavoidable complexity of the apparatus needed for some of the simplest and therefore the most fundamental of scientific inquiries.

Admission to the exhibition was not confined to members of the British Association; to whom it was free, but the doors were opened to any member of the public on payment of the moderate sum of one shilling for one day only, while three times that amount guaranteed admission at any time during the fortnight of the exhibition. The results for the first week show that this arrangement was happily inspired, and that the exhibition was as popular with the outside public as with members of the association. The number of daily tickets sold was quite naturally largely in excess of the number of season tickets, but the demand for the latter was quite sufficient to justify their issue.

The exhibition committee was fortunate indeed in having at its disposal the excellent accommodation afforded by the Central Technical Schools, Byrom Street, and the exhibits occupied the rooms on three floors of this magnificent building. The fine lecture hall enabled daily lectures, in some cases illustrated by cinematograph films or experiments, to be given by men of science, a feature which contributed in no small degree to the success of the exhibition. The popularity of these lectures is sufficiently illustrated by the fact that arrangements were made for two at least to be delivered a second time—"The Optophone," by Professor Barr, and "Researches in Special Steels," by Mr. S. A. Main (Research Department of Sir Robert Hadfield's, Ltd.). Other lectures included "Ripples," by Professor L. R. Wilberforce; "Research and Industry," by Sir Frank Heath; "Experiments on Coal Dust Explosions in Mines," by Professor H. B. Dixon; "The Compass in Navigation," by Captain Creagh-Osborne, R.N.; "Flame," by Professor A. Smithells; "Kodachrome Cinematograph," by Dr. Mees (Kodak Co., London); "Developments in Wireless Telegraphy," by Commander Sleet (Marconi Co., London).

CANADA'S BUFFALO HERD

So successful have been Canada's efforts to save the buffalo from extinction that it has been found necessary, in order not to overcrowd the ranges in the great park at Wainwright, Alberta, to dispose of about 2,000 animals. Sixteen years ago it was the general opinion of naturalists and others that the buffalo was doomed to follow the passenger pigeon

and the great auk into oblivion. However, the Dominion Government, through the Department of the Interior, grasped the opportunity to secure a herd of 716 animals, and had them placed in Buffalo Park at Wainwright. To-day the greatest tribute to the government's foresight is the immense herd of 8,300 animals in the reserve; and the increase of these animals when protected and allowed to roam freely over a part of their old habitat has set at rest the fears as to their possible extinction and indicates a possible line of industrial development.

Notwithstanding the number taken from the herd from year to year to supply specimens to other parks in Canada, the United States, Great Britain and other parts of the Empire, it was found that some other disposition must be made of a large number in order that the park might not become overcrowded. Hence the decision, indicated above, to kill two thousand animals, surplus to the requirements of the herd.

All arrangements have been completed for the killing which will be conducted by experienced men under the supervision of government officials and carried out with expedition and the employment of humane methods which will also insure the best economic results. Experiments have been made in every phase of the work and the plans incorporate the most modern methods in connection therewith.

In Buffalo Park certain ranges are retained as winter quarters, where grazing is not permitted in the summer months, in order that ample forage may be provided for the cold season. When the time comes for the migration to the winter quarters this fall the animals which are to be killed will be kept in the main enclosure and not allowed to enter the reserved areas with the main body of the herd. Riders will herd the selected animals and drive them near the buildings where the dressing is to be done. The buffalo will then be quickly dispatched by expert marksmen using powerful rifles, this being the most humane method of dealing with animals of such size and strength.

The autumn has been selected for the killing since atmospheric conditions at this season are more favorable for the handling and preservation of the meat, and also because at this time the buffalo is in prime condition, that is, in good flesh and with an excellent coat ready to resist the severities of the winter.

The contract for the slaughter calls for the preservation of the hides and heads, which will be prepared for market as they can best be utilized. Robes, garments and novelties can be manufactured from the hides, while the mounted heads provide an ornament much in demand. The sum thus secured will be used to help to meet the cost of maintaining the herd, and it is hoped that it is but the beginning of a revenue of considerable proportions from this source.