

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

NEW KEEPERS AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM¹

IN view of the approaching retirement of Sir Ernest Budge, and Dr. A. Smith Woodward from their posts at the British Museum, the principal trustees have made the following appointments, to take effect from the dates of their retirement, respectively:

Dr. H. R. Hall, M.B.E., D.Litt., to be keeper of Egyptian and Assyrian antiquities.

Dr. F. A. Bather, F.R.S., D.Sc., to be keeper of geology.

Sir Ernest Budge will retire on April 9 and Dr. Smith Woodward on May 23.

Sir Ernest Budge, who will be 67 next July, was made keeper in 1893 when he was only 36. He has produced an enormous number of books on the languages and histories of the ancient nations of the nearer east, some of them the results of excavations at Nineveh, and in Mesopotamia, Egypt and the Sudan. His knowledge of Assyriology and Egyptology is the more remarkable as he was self-taught. A man of original personality and extraordinary energy and tenacity of purpose, he will be greatly missed at the museum, where he has made important additions to the national collection.

Dr. H. R. Hall, who succeeds Sir Ernest Budge as keeper, is the son of the late Mr. Sydney Hall, the painter. From Merchant Taylor's School he went up to St. John's, Oxford, and in 1896, being then 23, entered the Department of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities. He has excavated for the Egypt Exploration Fund, and directed the British Museum excavations in South Babylonia (Ur of the Chaldees, Tell el-Obeid, and Abu Shahrein), and has done other important work, notably with Mr. L. W. King. During the war he rendered valuable political service in Mesopotamia.

Dr. Arthur Smith Woodward, who will be 60 on May 23, entered the museum in 1882. He has been particularly concerned with extinct vertebrata, especially of South America. To the public he is perhaps best known for his work on the discovery and interpretation of the Piltdown skull. Dr. Woodward has taken an active part in congresses of geologists and paleontologists, and his contributions to scientific literature have been important. He has received medals and other honors from learned societies, including the Prix Cuvier from the Institut de France in 1918.

Dr. F. A. Bather has been deputy keeper of the Department of Geology since 1902. From Winchester he went up to New College, Oxford, and obtained the Rolleston Prize for research in biology. In 1887 he entered the museum, and he has established

his reputation as a geologist, and also as an expert on museum technique.

THE SPRING MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ELECTROCHEMICAL SOCIETY

THE spring meeting of the American Electrochemical Society in Philadelphia on April 24, 25 and 26, promises to be one of interest to electrochemists. It would be difficult to select a more suitable city for a place of meeting than Philadelphia. Located amid beautiful surroundings and adjacent to enormous industrial establishments, it offers many features of personal appeal and interest, in addition to many interesting excursion trips.

The headquarters will be the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel. The technical meeting will be devoted to a symposium on "Organic Electrochemistry." Dr. C. J. Thatcher, chemical engineer, of New York City, will act as chairman. The discussion will cover the applications of electrochemistry in the preparation of organic chemicals, both in this country and abroad, and in particular, the future possibilities for the commercial production of such compounds.

The other symposium covers "Recent Progress in Electrodeposition." Mr. S. Skowronski, research chemist of the Raritan Copper Co., is chairman. A series of papers have been planned, covering "Electro-Refining of Metals," "Electro-Reduction of Metals," "Electro-Forming of Metals" and "Electro-Plating of Metals."

A large number of papers have been promised for the Electro-deposition symposium. There have been many important changes taking place within the last ten years in electrolytic refining of metals and electrolytic winning of metals from leaching solutions and we hope that at the Philadelphia meeting many of the innovations will be brought up for discussion, and a large attendance is expected at the symposium.

Another attraction of the technical program will be a round table discussion on "Electric Furnace Refractories." In addition to the round table discussion, there will be several interesting papers presented dealing with various phases of the subject.

In addition, two lectures, one by Dr. D. J. Barnett, at the Franklin Institute, the other by Mr. John Mills, will be delivered.

To those interested in excursion trips to industrial plants and places of interest, Philadelphia offers many attractions. Trips have already been arranged to visit the Philadelphia Mint, Disston Company, Dodge Steel Casting Company, Ajax Wyatt Company, Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company and an Airplane factory. Arrangements have also been made which will afford an opportunity to society members to visit Edgewood Arsenal on Saturday, April 26. The arsenal consists of eight main

¹ From the London *Times*.