

In many other directions than those touched upon has there been progress in the prevention of disease. It would take more than one address to describe the activities of the Rockefeller Foundation alone. Campaigns for the relief and control of hookworm disease, malaria control, the eradication of yellow fever, antituberculosis work and education are being pursued on such a scale and at such a lavish expenditure of money as to leave us in the Old Country breathless with admiration and envy. This foundation, incorporated in 1913, was founded, in the words of the president, "to stimulate world-wide research, to aid the diffusion of knowledge, to encourage cooperation in medical education and public health." Its chartered purpose is to promote, not the exclusive prosperity of any one nation, but "the well-being of mankind throughout the world."

Science, indeed, knows no boundaries of nations, languages or creeds. It is truly international. We are all children of one Father. The advance of knowledge in the causation and prevention of disease is not for the benefit of any one country, but for all—for the lonely African native, deserted by his tribe, dying in the jungle of sleeping sickness, or the Indian or Chinese coolie dying miserably of beri-beri, just as much as for the citizens of our own towns.

From what has been said it is abundantly clear that during the comparatively few years that have passed since this association first met in Canada, enormous advances have been made in the prevention of disease. Before that time we were still in the gloom and shadow of the dark ages. Now we have come out into the light. Man has come into his heritage and seems now to possess some particle of the universal creative force in virtue of which he can wrest from nature the secrets so jealously guarded by her and bend them to his own desire. But let there be no mistake; much has been done, but much more remains to be done. Mankind is still groaning and travailing under a grievous burden and weight of pain, sickness and disease. Interruptions are sure to come in the future as they have in the past in the work of removing the incubus, but, in spite of these, it is the duty of science to go steadily forward, illuminating the dark places in hope of happier times.

DAVID BRUCE

### ORGANIZED COOPERATION AMONG MUSEUMS

In the spring of 1923 the museums of the United States embarked upon a program of joint effort. The American Association of Museums was made over, so to speak, into an organization dependent no longer upon volunteer work, as it had been for nearly two decades. National headquarters were established at Washington, D. C. The nucleus of a permanent staff

was engaged, a program was laid out for the ensuing year and a prospectus was drafted for many years to come. All this was made possible by an assured support from various sources of \$25,000 for the first year and of \$30,000 for each of two years more.

Appropriately enough, these events transpired at the Charleston meeting of the association, which marked the completion of a century and a half of museum history in America.

The first year of this experiment has just come to a close, with the nineteenth annual meeting of the association, which was held in Washington, D. C., on May 10 to 13. The meeting ended with a dinner at which the speakers were His Excellency, the ambassador of the French Republic, the United States commissioner of education, the president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington and the permanent secretary of the National Research Council. This event was an appropriate finish to an occasion which has gone far towards establishing the association on a high plane and which has given new energy to the movement which the organization represents.

The report of the secretary showed what program twelve months have witnessed. A few excerpts follow:

The work of the year has divided itself between the Old World and the New. In Europe, Director Charles R. Richards has pursued a two-sided study, having made a survey of museums of industrial art and of applied art conditions in general on the one hand, and of museums of industry on the other. These projects have been financed by the General Education Board, which has given its cooperation to the association.

Just prior to Professor Richards's return in April, the General Education Board arranged to transfer to the association approximately \$7,000—this being the unexpended balance of its original appropriation towards Professor Richards's survey. It also indicated that it stood ready to provide such further funds as might be needed for the completion of the work.

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In this country the work of the association has gone forward from national headquarters at the Smithsonian Institution.

An important accomplishment has been the financial progress which has been made. Not only have the requirements laid down by the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial been fulfilled by raising \$15,000 to meet their grant of \$10,000 for the year, but additional income has made it possible to increase the budget. The report of the treasurer shows a total income of \$27,800.35, expenditures have been \$20,804.67, and the year has closed with a previous deficit wiped out and with a balance of \$6,050.86 of which \$4,000 is a reserved fund.

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Certain new support has developed during the year, which is now to become available for the second year of

operations. Under date of March 6, for example, the following communication was received from Dr. Beardslley Ruml, director of the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Memorial, held this morning, the following resolution was passed:

*Resolved*, That the sum of \$5,000 a year for two years, beginning July 1, 1924, be and it hereby is appropriated to the American Association of Museums upon condition that \$10,000 a year be obtained from other sources; this \$10,000 to be in addition to the \$20,000 required to meet the Memorial's pledge of June 27, 1923.

Later the date was changed to May 1, so that the funds might be drawn upon from the outset of our new fiscal year. This grant was made prior to the grant of the General Education Board, reported above, and, therefore, the funds made available by the latter grant enable us to meet in large part the conditions of the memorial, and in consequence there should be no difficulty in completing the requirements at an early date, in order to make available an additional fifteen thousand dollars of income.

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Before leaving the subject of finances, it is in order to report a piece of work which has led up to still another grant. In November, 1923, announcement was made through the Associated Press that the association stood ready to advise and consult with the officers of small and struggling museums and with groups contemplating the establishment of museums. The release was rewritten by editors throughout the country until it had occupied several hundred columns of space in newspapers and magazines. Clipping agencies are still returning stories which have developed out of it.

Within a few weeks of this release, a hundred or more letters were received asking for information and help, and in consequence the facilities of the office were taxed. The character of these inquiries demonstrated a need on the part of small museums for more help than could be given by letter. It seemed to justify establishment of field service.

These facts were laid before the Carnegie Corporation of New York, and as a result a grant of five thousand dollars was made for the year just begun.

With this grant it will be possible to make a constructive beginning. The first move will be to survey the field to make a careful analysis of conditions and to formulate well-considered recommendations on the subjects of museum organization, management, administration, functioning and technique. This survey will begin at an early date and will probably be completed before 1925, at which time the association should be in a position to publish a report of the investigation.

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The total membership of the association has been increased by 50 per cent. during the year just closed.

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A number of special projects have engaged attention. Early in 1924 an invitation was received from the commercial attaché of France to interest ourselves in the In-

ternational Exposition of Modern Decorative and Industrial Arts, which is to be held in Paris in 1925. At about the same time, a message was received from Professor Richards—then abroad—in which he dwelled upon the importance of this exposition, indicating that it might have an important bearing upon museum activities in the field of applied art in America. Professor Richards urged that efforts be made to assure American participation. Upon inquiry it was disclosed that a negative decision had been made by government officials and that the French government was about to be advised that our country would not be represented at Paris.

It was felt that the decision might have been different if the matter could have been brought to the attention of certain important industrial art manufacturers by Professor Richards, who is so intimately in touch with the situation. This belief was urged upon officials of the Department of State and of the Department of Commerce, and as a result, the United States government held a decision in abeyance for nearly three months in order that Director Richards might be given an opportunity to go over the possibilities.

Upon his return, Professor Richards addressed his first efforts to this problem, and while in fact it was not possible to enlist sufficient interest to reverse the decision made previously by the government, still there was satisfaction in having exhausted every possibility. This incident is an example of national service which the association is in a position to render.

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At the suggestion of the association, the Honorable Herbert Hoover, secretary of commerce, had indicated his willingness to appoint a committee of the Department of Commerce—a committee on industrial art—and he has asked the association to suggest the personnel. The work of this committee is conceived to be the putting into operation of the results of Professor Richards's various studies—which accomplishment, incidentally, would be the means of drawing American museums more centrally into the current of the applied art movement.

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Recently, after a series of conferences with the National Parks Service, the association developed a plan which it is hoped will make available \$250,000 for the building of museums in national parks.

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At headquarters publications have been one of the chief concerns. *Museum Work* has been improved in format, and is now operating under such headway that it can be made a monthly as soon as finances permit. A series of mimeographed news letters have developed into a semi-monthly newspaper, *The Museum News*. Editorial copies of the latter publication are being sent by request to city editors in almost every state, and clippings which are returned indicate that it is being drawn upon regularly for news.

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A number of magazines, most notably *School Life*, *American City*, SCIENCE and the Bulletin of the Pan-American Union, have run articles prepared by the staff. Trade journals have run items about the association's work, and the possibility of cooperation between museums and industries. Newspaper publicity has been clipped by agencies to a total of five hundred columns, and in considering these returns it must be remembered that agencies do not find more than thirty per cent. of what appears.

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Employment information has been gathered and published regularly and a considerable number of positions filled. It is difficult to estimate the results of this service because successful candidates for positions rarely inform headquarters of their changes of employment.

Information service has been rendered regularly, but under some difficulties because of the wide range of information sought and the relatively slender facilities which headquarters has had during the past year for gathering and collating facts. The services of an information clerk, or special librarian, are needed for the new year.

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A report for the year could hardly close without referring to a piece of progress which will not yield results until some time in the future, *viz.*, a plan to prepare public health exhibits, both for circulation and for permanent lodgment in museums. This plan is both described and endorsed in the following action taken by the International Association of Medical Museums at its annual meeting held in Buffalo, New York, on April 17, 1924.

WHEREAS, The American Association of Museums in conjunction with the National Committee on Exhibits of the National Health Council have in mind the development of detailed plans along the lines of health exhibits for the benefit of the United States; and

WHEREAS, These plans comprehend the development in detail of a Public Health Exhibit to be arranged and installed in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, such exhibit to be completed and popular; and to prepare uniform labels for such an exhibit in lots; and to prepare one complete duplicate of such exhibit, this duplicate to be divided so as to be circulated among cooperating museums for temporary installation; and to estimate the cost of producing other duplicates of complete exhibit to be on sale by such committee; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That we, the members of the International Association of Medical Museums, as an organization, learn with great interest the plans of the American Association of Museums, and realizing this plan to be of such importance as to commend itself to anyone interested in public health, and realizing further the great benefit of such exhibits particularly to school teachers and pupils, hereby endorse the idea and commend these plans.

Professor C.-E. A. Winslow, of Yale Medical School, has consented to serve as chairman of a committee to have general supervision of the project when it develops, and plans are now being formulated to finance it.

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The first year of organized cooperation among museums has demonstrated the soundness of the idea upon which the new program of the association is based. It has

shown that definitely useful work can be supported. It has opened up an alluring outlook for the association, but more than that, it has seemed to justify the belief that a new era for American Museums has dawned.

LAURENCE VAIL COLEMAN,  
*Secretary*

## THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

THE Centenary celebration of the founding of the Franklin Institute and the inauguration exercises of the Bartol Research Foundation will be held in Philadelphia, on September 17, 18 and 19, 1924. The principal events of the program are as follows:

### *Wednesday, September 17*

9:30 A. M. Assembly of delegates and guests at the hall of The Franklin Institute, 15 South Seventh Street.

10:00 A. M. Academic procession from the hall of The Franklin Institute to the Walnut Street Theater. (Academic costume is in order.)

10:30 A. M. Invocation: Reverend Louis C. Washburn, Rector of Christ Church, Philadelphia.

10:30 A. M. *Address of Welcome*: The Honorable W. Freeland Kendrick, Mayor of Philadelphia.

*Address*: President Wm. C. L. Eglin.

*Address*: Professor Elihu Thomson, Honorary Chairman of the Centenary Celebration Committee of The Franklin Institute.

1:00 P. M. Luncheon to delegates and guests at the Bellevue-Stratford.

2:30 P. M. Sectional Meeting: The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, the hall of The Franklin Institute, the hall of The American Philosophical Society, the hall of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

7:30 P. M. Informal Dinners.

### *Thursday, September 18*

10:00 A. M. Sectional Meetings: The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, the hall of The Franklin Institute, the hall of The American Philosophical Society, the hall of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

1:30 P. M. Luncheon to delegates and guests at the Bellevue-Stratford.

2:30 P. M. to 6:00 P. M. Garden party.

8:30 P. M. Open Meeting at the Academy of Music. President Wm. C. L. Eglin, presiding, will introduce the chairman of the evening, The Hon. William Cameron Sproul.

*Address*: "The natural and artificial disintegration of elements," by Professor Sir Ernest Rutherford, Trinity College, Cambridge.

### *Friday, September 19*

10:00 A. M. Unveiling of tablet at Bartol Research Foundation.

10:15 A. M. The Academy of Natural Sciences.

*Address*: "The fifth estate," by Arthur D. Little, Cambridge.

*Address*: "Stimulation of research and invention," by Professor D. S. Jacobus, New York City.