

few, the best by natural selection, have reached the summit and there attained the broad vision denied those at lower altitudes. As for me, I am satisfied to have been able to traverse the great lowland to the base, and to climb the foothills.

GEORGE OTIS SMITH

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

APPLIED SCIENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BRUSSELS¹

THE highly successful celebrations in connection with the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Applied Science School of the University of Brussels were held in the latter half of November, and were attended by the King of the Belgians, who received the foreign delegates, and also by the Duke of Brabant, who laid the foundation stone of a new building which will continue the development of the university. The city of Brussels and private donors have contributed largely to this scheme, as also the American Committee for the Relief of Belgium. Great progress has been made in the buildings for pure and applied science at Solbosch, on the outskirts of Brussels, where, with ample space at disposal, it has been possible to erect a very fine block of buildings in the form of a hollow square.

Physics and chemistry are very well housed and equipped, and especial care has been taken to provide a number of small rooms for research work. The electrical engineering laboratories are remarkably well planned, and especially so as regards the arrangement of their numerous power circuits, which are carried round the walls below the windows and are protected by wire grillages. These circuits are connected to a number of panel units also completely enclosed and provided with the usual resistances, switch gear and measuring instruments all connected up in such a manner that students can readily trace out the various circuits, to which access is gained by numerous doors.

The main laboratory for investigating the strength and other physical properties of materials is chiefly notable for a fine equipment of Amsler testing machines housed in a spacious room provided with an overhead crane, and there are also a considerable number of accessory instruments for measurement and calibration work. A special photo-elastic laboratory is also arranged for in connection with this department.

The laboratories for technical thermodynamics and hydraulics are now in course of equipment and are on a large scale typical of continental views of such

matters, and, like the other laboratories, have well-lighted basements with considerable head room, an arrangement which is especially convenient for steam plants and machinery dealing with the flow of liquids.

In connection with the celebrations, a number of scientific and technical addresses were given, and numerous other functions were arranged by the government, the university and the civic authorities.

ANNUAL EXHIBITION AT THE CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON

THE annual exhibition of the results of recent research activities of the Carnegie Institution of Washington was opened to the public for a few days beginning December 13. The exhibits were also retained intact in the administration building of the institution throughout the Washington meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science as a part of the exhibit program of the local committee of the association.

In this exhibition no attempt was made to include materials representative of all research work of the institution, but effort was directed toward presentation of a visual story of major research accomplishments of the past year. In this way it is hoped that recurrent exhibits may illustrate the latest results of continued research as an aid in the dissemination of information concerning progress of work of the institution, and may serve as a stimulating means to more effective cooperation among investigators connected with the institution and with other research organizations.

The success of the exhibition was due largely to demonstration and explanation by the scientists whose work was represented, or by qualified attendants. Attention may be directed to the following exhibits which related especially to the results of most recently undertaken investigations:

Demonstration of a new modification of respiration apparatus to determine the heat of combustion or the energy in different kinds of food. This apparatus was demonstrated by Dr. F. G. Benedict and Mr. E. L. Fox of the Nutrition Laboratory.

Dr. A. H. Schulz, of the department of embryology, exhibited some interesting charts showing variability in human body proportions in illustration of his conclusion that environment plays very little part in such development.

The Geophysical Laboratory, Dr. A. L. Day, director, presented a model composition of the earth, a new microscope furnace for use with high magnification, a new model illustrating sinking of crystals in a laboratory crucible and in natural molten rock, a spectrographic method for determination of metallic constituents in volcanic materials, and a new gravity balance recently devised by Dr. F. E. Wright.

¹ From *Nature*.