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 BRUSSELS[1]

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.

[1] From *Nature*.

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.

Among exhibits of the Mount Wilson Observatory were shown the operation of a vacuum thermocouple for measuring planetary temperatures and the new seismograph for detecting earthquakes, the latter recently developed by Dr. J. A. Anderson.

The department of terrestrial magnetism presented an interesting exhibit of methods and equipment developed and used to record and measure earth currents.

Dr. S. G. Morley and his associates, who have been carrying on archeological investigations in British Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico, showed the progress of these investigations by means of maps, photographs and models.

Among the exhibits representing work of research associates should be mentioned the apparatus developed by Dr. B. E. Livingston and Mr. J. D. Wilson showing the influence of conditions such as wind and light on rate of water-loss from plants. The thoroughly developed technique and the convincing operation of this apparatus proved a source of much interest.

Interesting exhibits were also on view from other research departments of the institution and from other research associates, including Dr. Albert Mann, Dr. Ralph W. Chaney, Dr. T. W. Richards, of Harvard University, Dr. T. B. Osborne and Dr. L. B. Mendel, of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and Yale University, and Dr. A. E. Douglass, of the University of Arizona.

RESEARCH PRIZE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

To encourage scientific research at the University of Virginia, the President and Visitors' Research Prize has been established through a gift of Hollis Rinehart, member of the board of visitors, in the form of $100 in gold, to be awarded each year for the best original investigation published by a professor or student of the university.

This award is to be announced each April at the annual meeting of the local chapter of Sigma Xi.

Selection of the winner of the President and Visitors' Research Prize will be made by a committee of authorities selected by Dr. F. K. Richtmyer, national president of Sigma Xi and professor of physics at Cornell University. The names of the committeemen have not been announced.

Heads of each of the scientific departments of the university will select the most suitable published research from his department each year and will present it to the committee of Sigma Xi. The prize is not limited to any one field but is open to investigators in pure and applied science and mathematics. Competition is limited to the schools of astronomy, biology, chemistry, geology, mathematics, physics and to the departments of engineering and medicine.

First award of the President and Visitors' Research Prize will be made at the next annual meeting of Sigma Xi in April. Dr. S. A. Mitchell, professor of astronomy and director of the Leander McCormick Observatory, is president of the local chapter. The winner of the prize will be asked to address members of the faculty on his subject in the following fall.

Need for such a recognition of original investigation at the university has long been felt and the organization of the local chapter of Sigma Xi in 1923 followed the appointment of a faculty committee on research. The two bodies cooperating worked out the plan for the President and Visitors' Research Prize.

THE FORMATION OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PARASITOLOGISTS

A NEW society, the American Society of Parasitologists, was formed at a meeting of a number of those interested in parasitology held in Washington on December 30, 1924. As stated in its constitution the object of the new society shall be the association of workers in the field of parasitology for the presentation and discussion of new or important facts and problems in that science and for the adoption of such measurers as shall tend to the advancement of parasitological teaching and investigation in this country. The members of the society are to be of two classes, active and foreign honorary and any person interested in parasitology shall be eligible for active membership. The dues of the society were set at one dollar a year. The following officers were elected for the first year:

President, H. B. Ward.
Vice-president, S. T. Darling.
Secretary-Treasurer, W. W. Cort.
Members at large of the Council:

For one year.	For three years.
F. C. Bishopp,	R. W. Hegner,
C. A. Kofoid.	B. H. Ransom.
For two years.	For four years.
W. A. Riley,	P. S. Bartsch,
E. E. Tyzzer.	C. W. Stiles.

The secretary-treasurer will be glad to receive applications for membership accompanied by the dues for the first year. Also, the council will be glad to receive suggestions from any one interested in regard to the policies or activities of the new society.

W. W. CORT,
Secretary-Treasurer
SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND PUBLIC HEALTH,
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

APPALACHIAN FOREST RESEARCH COUNCIL

AN Appalachian Forest Research Council has been appointed by Secretary Gore, of the U. S. Depart-