

ing. Professor Everett P. Lesley will occupy the position of executive head of the department of mechanical engineering for the present academic year.

DR. BRUCE M. HARRISON, assistant professor of zoology at Iowa State College, has recently resigned to take the position of associate professor of zoology at the University of Southern California.

At the University of Chicago, Dr. Nathaniel Kleitman has been appointed assistant professor of physiology, Dr. Paul R. Cannon assistant professor of pathology, and Fred B. Plummer assistant professor of geology. Dr. Charles Philip Miller has been made an assistant professor in medicine on the Douglas Smith Foundation to do research work abroad.

ANDREW IRVING ANDREWS, for the past year professor of ceramic engineering at the New York State School of Clay Working and Ceramics, Alfred, N. Y., has been appointed assistant professor of ceramic engineering at the University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.

DR. ARTHUR D. KNOTT has been appointed to the position of acting professor of preventive medicine at the Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, to take the place of Dr. Ernest C. Levy, who is on indefinite leave of absence.

DRS. WILLIAM E. DEEKS, Carlos P. Chagas and Alexander H. Rice have been appointed lecturers in tropical medicine at the Harvard School of Public Health, Boston.

A CHAIR of epidemiology has been created at the Collège de France at Paris and Professor H. Vincent appointed to it. Dr. Vincent was general medical inspector of the French army until his retirement on reaching the age limit.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

A PLAN FOR THE PROMOTION OF SMALL MUSEUMS

IN recognition of the growing importance of small museums, the American Association of Museums has embarked upon an effort to assist in the establishment and reorganization of small institutions and to promote the interests of all museums in the smaller communities. The project—or series of projects—has grown out of extensive field work during the past year.

PROJECT I—DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

There are relatively few small museums that have trustees who are in touch with the museum movement or who recognize the importance of employing a trained director, and in consequence there are many

untrained persons in charge of such institutions. This accounts in large part for the present underdeveloped condition of many museums.

It is felt that, as a first step, information concerning museum ideals and practices should be disseminated to those interested in the progress of small museums and to persons of influence in whose hands new museums may be organized. There is need for a comprehensive but simple and compact treatment of museum principles and methods to serve as the basis of this endeavor, and consequently the executive secretary of the association has undertaken to prepare a "Manual for Small Museums."

Effort to broadcast this body of information should involve direct approach to museum trustees, publicity through book reviews, magazine articles and the daily press and work through national organizations which can reach the leading citizens of any community.

PROJECT II—TRAINING OF MUSEUM WORKERS

If *Project I* should meet with success, a general scrutiny of small museums might ensue, and an increased demand for trained museum workers might develop. In anticipation of this outcome it is planned to provide now for the training of a limited number of directors.

Directorship of a small museum is specialized work, calling for a range of information, understanding of people and skill in museum technique. Despite these requirements, the pay will be relatively small. It is felt that the work will make greatest appeal to women of experience in other fields of service, and that training afforded such candidates ought to be of a practical kind.

Plans are being developed to organize instruction with the help of several museums—each contributing a course in some one or two subjects in which its work excels. If only one or two students are assigned to each museum at a time, and if periods of training be sufficiently long, it should be possible for the museums to count upon a certain amount of real help from the student assistants. This is desirable both as a protection to the interests of the museum and as a guarantee of thorough instruction to the student.

The entire problem of training for museum work is being studied by a committee of the association, of which Dr. S. A. Barrett is chairman.

PROJECT III—GRANTS FOR SALARIES

Although *Project I* might develop genuine desire for a trained director in a number of small communities and *Project II* might produce enough directors to supply the demand, still financial limitations

would probably prevent employment of the trained workers in many instances. In order to bring the demand and the supply together it may be desirable at a later time to make efforts to secure grants to enable small museums to employ directors for three or five years.

PROJECT IV—PUBLIC SUPPORT OF MUSEUMS

Success of *Project III* should equip a number of small museums for community service. In each of such museums the director would doubtless regard it as a first duty to place the finances of the institution on a safe permanent basis, and to this end help could be given.

Public support is the strongest financial bulwark of a small institution, but the success of any museum in securing county or municipal appropriations must depend upon the character of legislation in the state. There are only ten states in which the legislature has made provision for museums, and in five of these states the laws are quite inadequate. Therefore the association has determined to work for uniform and improved laws.

PROJECT V—COOPERATION OF MUSEUMS

The life and virility of any museum depends in part upon the relations which it maintains with other museums. Since small museums are more apt to be benefited by help from their near neighbors than from institutions far away, and since the expense involved in sending representatives to state conferences would be small, it seems desirable to promote the establishment of state or regional museums organizations. Although the American Association of Museums desires to give assistance to regional groups, it does not intend to exercise any centralized administrative control.

In undertaking this promotion, the association is mindful of the misfortunes that would attend standardization of museums, and therefore freedom of local initiative is to be safeguarded. However, the small museums of America do need counsel and help, and with just these abetments from the national body, they may ultimately attain to much importance.

LAURENCE VAIL COLEMAN,
Executive Secretary.

NEW YORK, N. Y.

DEFINITE EVIDENCE OF HUMAN ARTIFACTS IN THE AMERICAN PLEISTOCENE

Good, dependable definite evidence of human artifacts in the Pleistocene in America has at last been

found. Many geologists and investigators have been expecting such evidence to be turned up, and many interesting discoveries are of course recorded, by many people from several states. Among the more important of these are the famous Vero and Melbourne, Florida, discoveries; those at Dallas Sand Pits, Texas, and the Nebraska Loess Man. But in most cases, however, these discoveries were made under conditions which make the geological evidence of their antiquity subject to possible question, in varying degrees.

In the present instance, fortunately, the evidence is so dependable that no reasonable doubt can exist that the artifacts and fossil animals found are contemporaneous, and that the animals and artifacts are in original, undisturbed Pleistocene deposits.

The first work leading up to this discovery was done early in the summer of 1924. After seeing pieces of fossilized bone from the locality, Director J. D. Figgins, of the Colorado Museum of Natural History, Denver, authorized and outfitted an expedition to southwestern Texas, under the leadership of Mr. H. D. Boyes; and the work of excavating was begun with the assistance of Mr. Nelson Vaughan, who made the original discovery, and reported it to Director Figgins. About the first of May, 1925, at the request of Director Figgins, the writer went to the locality, examined the quarry and vicinity and checked the geology of the region.

In 1924, Messrs. Boyes and Vaughan collected most of the associated skeleton of a splendidly preserved fossil bison and parts of other individuals and animals. In taking up a large block, with the articulated vertebrae and ribs in position, the first artifact was found, under the cervical vertebrae. A second similar point was found on the under side of the femur of this bison. A third point was found in position with the body of this skeleton; but this latter point was lost or stolen before it could be packed in the field for shipment. These artifacts are large arrow points or small lance points. They are, very unexpectedly, of very fine workmanship, much more refined and beautifully worked than the arrow and spear points of the more recent types in that region, and of quite distinct culture and design. Hundreds of examples of the stone artifacts of two more recent cultural stages were observed in that region by the writer, and there is no question that the more recent work is far more crude, and made by a distinct people, of distinct culture.

In examining the geology of the region it became apparent that the old eroded, rather shallow valleys, cut into Triassic and Cretaceous beds in that region, had for a while refilled during Pleistocene time; and