

very important part of the undertaking. Exhibits by individuals and research laboratories are being arranged, by invitation. The committee welcomes concrete suggestions as to exhibits that might be requested. No fees are to be paid on account of these invited exhibits, the expenses of the exhibition being covered by the fees from the commercial exhibits. Individuals having newly developed apparatus or methods, etc., suitable for the Philadelphia exhibition should make inquiry from the permanent secretary's office immediately; in some cases these exhibits may be placed in the main exhibition hall. If necessary, a separate room is to be arranged for an overflow.

A number of the societies associated with the association will hold small, technical exhibitions in connection with their sessions at Philadelphia, and exhibits by individuals may, in many cases, be accommodated there. The societies have been requested not to enter commercial exhibits in their society exhibitions unless the exhibitors have taken space in the great, general exhibition for all science. The local committee at Philadelphia is arranging rooms for society exhibitions as well as for sessions.

Arrangements for exhibits by commercial firms are to be made with the manager of the Philadelphia exhibition, Major H. S. Kimberly, who is to be addressed at the association office, in the Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C. Some spaces are still available.

The registration offices for the Philadelphia meeting, in charge of the executive assistant, Mr. Sam Woodley, will be located in the central portion of the large exhibition hall (Weightman Hall, Spruce and 33rd Streets). The offices will be open from 9 to 6 daily, throughout convocation week. The visible directory of those in attendance will be arranged as usual. The news offices, for releases to the daily press, in charge of the director of news, Mr. Austin H. Clark, of the National Museum, will be located in the same building, on the floor below the general exhibition.

There will be one or more evening entertainments given by the commercial exhibitors, especially a Christmas-tree affair on Tuesday evening, December 28, and a New-Year's-Eve gathering on Friday evening, December 31. The general exhibition will be a social center for the meeting. Tea will be served every afternoon.

BURTON E. LIVINGSTON,  
*Permanent Secretary*

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN RUSSIA

PROFESSOR R. RUGGLES GATES, who has returned to London after a visit to Russia, gives, in a letter to

*Nature*, some interesting information as to the position of scientific work and institutions there. In the course of his letter he says that much valuable work is being done in the various plant-breeding stations which he visited. These included Tammisto, near Helsingfors, Finland, as well as Khibiny in Russian Lapland, north of the Arctic Circle, which is devoted chiefly to the production of northern vegetables and oats for fodder; Peterhof and Desto Selo, near Leningrad, where extensive genetical, biometric, cytological and physiological investigations are being carried on, especially with cereals, under the direction of Professors Philiptschenko, Vavilov and Levitsky, and Drs. Pissarev and Karpetschenko; Petrovsky-Razoumovsky, where extensive experiments, particularly with oat-breeding, are being made by Dr. Schegalov, and Saratov, where the greatest interest attaches to a series of unique wheat-rye hybrids of Professor Meister and where Dr. Plachek is improving the varieties of sunflowers, which are extensively grown as a crop in Southern Russia.

In Moscow, the Institute of Experimental Biology is one of several laboratories under the direction of Professor Koltzoff, in which a great range of genetical and cytological as well as other experimental work in animal biology is being done. The genetical section is in charge of Professor Tschetverikoff. Much eugenical work is also being done in Moscow and in Leningrad, especially in the collection of pedigrees, and a Russian *Journal of Eugenics* is edited by Professors Koltzoff, Liublinsky and Philiptschenko. The Timiriazev Institute in Moscow, under the direction of Professor Navashin, is chiefly devoted to research in plant cytology and genetics. Professor Gates also visited the Botanical Gardens in Leningrad, Tiflis and Batoum, the chief interest of the Tiflis garden being its large collection of Caucasus plants. A study was made of the tundra vegetation in the far north and the steppe region in Southern Russia and the Caucasus. While in Moscow Professor Gates was present at the opening of a small museum of Metchnikoff relics in the Institute of Experimental Pathology. Madame Metchnikoff came from Paris for the occasion.

### PAUL KAMMERER'S LETTER TO THE MOSCOW ACADEMY

THE following letter was sent to the officials of the Moscow Academy of Science by Dr. Paul Kammerer, professor of biology in Moscow University, a few days before his death.

Vienna, September 22, 1926.

To the Presidium of the Communist Academy, Moscow.  
Respected Comrades and Colleagues:

Presumably you all know about the attack upon me

made by Dr. Noble in *Nature*, of August 7, 1926. The attack is based upon an investigation of the exhibits of alytes (toads), with heat stripes, proving my theory, made by Dr. Noble with Professor Przibram in the Vienna Biological Experimental Institute and with my permission.

The principal matter of importance in this is an artificial coloring, probably with India ink, through which the black coloring of the skin in the region carrying the stripes is said to have been faked. Therefore it would be a matter of deception that presumably will be laid to me only.

After having read the attack I went to the Biological Experimental Institute for the purpose of looking over the object in question. I found the statements of Dr. Noble completely verified. Indeed, there were still other objects (blackened salamanders) upon which my results had plainly been "improved" post mortem with India ink. Who besides myself had any interest in perpetrating such falsifications can only be very dimly suspected. But it is certain that practically my whole life's work is placed in doubt by it.

On the basis of this state of affairs I dare not, although I myself have no part in these falsifications of my proof specimens, any longer consider myself the proper man to accept your call. I see that I am also not in a position to endure this wrecking of my life's work, and I hope that I shall gather together enough courage and strength to put an end of my wrecked life to-morrow.

I am not stopping the packing up of the things destined to be taken with me. First, because it would attract the attention of my family, which must not know anything of my intention before it is carried out; and, second, because I am thus making my last will and testament giving my library into the care of the Communist Academy in Moscow, so that this will compensate it for all the efforts it has wasted upon me.

Finally, I ask that my heartiest farewell greetings be given to the following friends: . . .

With the plea that you will forgive me for having made you all this trouble, I am,

Yours devotedly,  
PAUL KAMMERER

#### THE NEW BUFFALO MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

THE corner-stone of the new Buffalo Museum of Science, to be erected in Humboldt Park, was laid on the afternoon of October 16. The new museum building will be a four-story structure costing approximately \$1,000,000. According to *Museum News* authorization for its construction was submitted to the people of Buffalo by referendum in 1923 and was carried by a large majority. The structure is to be built and equipped by the city for occupancy by the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences. For some years past the society has had two temporary museum premises—one downtown in the building of the Buffalo Public Library and one on Elmwood Avenue.

Both of these quarters are soon to be given up for the new home now under construction.

While no radical departures have been made in planning the arrangement of the new building, much study has been given to its various problems, with the result that it embodies noteworthy features. The ground floor will be utilized for children's work and the visual education and photographic departments. The main floor will be devoted to systematic exhibits and the second and third floors will be utilized for the purposes of research in its broadest sense, including the storage of reserve and other collections. The offices, both administrative and scientific, are planned to be readily accessible to the public from the main entrance. Library, class rooms, laboratories and storage vaults have also been so located that the work of the museum may progress in the most effective manner.

In addition to the main library there will be a children's library. A special space will be set apart for a biological research and pedagogic laboratory, which will have at least a dozen aquaria in addition to its other equipment. Disinfecting rooms and many other improvements are also provided for in the plan of the new structure.

The preparation of exhibits for the new museum is going forward while the building is under construction. An experimental room has been arranged at the old quarters in the Public Library building, and there, with the use of a one-room equipment of standard cases, installations are being made in succession. As each exhibit is finished, notes are taken and the entire lot of material is then packed away to await final housing in the new museum. This plan will reduce to the minimum the time which must elapse between the completion of the building and its opening to the public.

#### PLANT CONGRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

AN exceptionally fine and complete set of photographs was obtained of those who attended the International Congress of Plant Sciences held at Cornell University this past summer. Some early requests from libraries and individuals for complete sets of these group photographs suggested the desirability of a bound volume of these photographs as a permanent record for libraries, museums or individuals interested in this first great gathering of representatives of all plant sciences. I have arranged with the university photographer who was the official photographer for the congress to prepare such complete bound sets for those who may wish to order them.

The volume will contain thirteen pictures of groups representing different sections of the congress, including also a group picture of the officers and about