

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

EXHIBITION AT THE SCIENCE MUSEUM  
AT SOUTH KENSINGTON

THE authorities of the Science Museum at South Kensington have arranged to hold periodical exhibitions for the purpose of bringing to the notice of the general public results of modern physical research, which would otherwise remain hidden from them in technical reports. The first of these exhibitions, according to the *London Times*, was opened on November 6. It consisted of apparatus and material illustrating work recently done at the National Physical Laboratory at Teddington in metallurgy, engineering and physics. Further exhibitions by other research institutions will follow at intervals of a few months, the plan being to change them about three times a year.

Some of the research that was illustrated in the first exhibition bears on problems the importance of which has long been generally recognized. One of these is that of the protection of X-ray operators from the injurious effects produced by stray rays. The matter is undergoing investigation, and apparatus will be shown which is used to estimate the absorbing value of different materials.

Apparatus has been constructed which first produces and then photographs sound waves within a small architectural model. These photographs show the passage of the sound waves and their reflection from irregular projections with the clearness of diagrams. A number of such photographs will be exhibited, together with a photograph of the special apparatus used for the purpose.

Special hygrometers, designed to determine the amount of moisture in cold stores where the ordinary instruments can not be satisfactorily used, will be shown. There is also apparatus for ascertaining the rate at which heat is absorbed by different materials employed in connection with cold storage.

Many exhibits relate to matters with which the public is less familiar. There are all-metal high vacuum pumps for exhausting the air in tubes and other vessels; instruments for determining the behavior of lubricants; models consisting of balls mounted on wires, which represent the arrangement of atoms in a molecule of metal or alloy, and pieces of metal showing how the defect of the production of holes by gas has been overcome. There will also be on view special crucibles and specimens of quite pure metals, of the chemical and physical properties of which little is yet known. Some further exhibits will be added towards the end of the month by the adhesive research committee of the Department of Scientific Research.

PRESENTATION OF THE YOSEMITE  
MUSEUM TO THE PARK SERVICE

THE newly completed museum in the Yosemite National Park, California, was formally turned over to the National Park Service of the U. S. Department of the Interior on October 29. Chauncey J. Hamlin, chairman of the committee on museums in national parks of the American Association of Museums, made the presentation. Acting Secretary E. C. Finney accepted on behalf of the Park Service.

Funds for the museum building and equipment were obtained by the American Association of Museums from the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial, which made a grant of \$75,550 for the purpose.

In making the presentation Mr. Hamlin read a letter which he had addressed to the Secretary of the Interior, which said in part:

It was the original purpose to construct and equip a museum at Yosemite that would properly house the collections then on hand and provide facilities appropriate to the needs of the general public and visiting men of science.

It is my privilege to report to you that the Yosemite Museum is now completed. It has four large exhibition rooms, a lecture hall, a library and stack room, headquarters for the nature guide service, workrooms and laboratories and valuable exhibition material quite beyond the original plans.

This achievement has been made possible through the sympathetic and cooperative assistance of the National Park Service, the financial assistance of the Yosemite Natural History Association and of the American Association of Museums and the personal efforts and gratuitous services of the members of our committee.

Knowing your desires concerning the supreme purposes of the national parks, confident that the establishment of local museums is one of the most practical ways of educating the public, and with the authority given me by the council of the American Association of Museums, I now pass over to you, in this informal way, such rights and ownership as the association may have in the museum at Yosemite National Park, feeling sure that under federal administration its educational purposes will be maintained adequately.

THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE BUREAU OF STANDARDS

THE twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Commerce Department's Bureau of Standards will be celebrated on December 4.

The committee in charge of the arrangements has provided an interesting program for the guests who will visit the bureau on that day. The bureau will keep "open house" from 10 till 5 o'clock, and from 12 to 2 luncheon will be served in the industrial building.