# 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.

In the evening the bureau's staff will act as hosts at a dinner to be given at the New Willard hotel. Many distinguished guests, including scientific and technical men from all over the country, are expected to attend the celebration. Among these will be Dr. S. W. Stratton, president of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and for twenty-two years director of the bureau.

The bureau was created by act of congress on March 3, 1901. It took over the duties of the old division of weights and measures of the Coast and Geodetic Survey. From 1901 till 1903 the bureau came under the Treasury Department. In 1903 it was transferred to the Department of Commerce and Labor, now the Department of Commerce.

The bureau was originally housed in temporary quarters near the capitol. It now occupies more than a dozen permanent buildings on a large site at the corner of Van Ness Street and Connecticut Avenue. The staff, which numbered 14 people in 1901, has grown to about 800—two thirds of the employees being scientifically trained.

## AWARD OF MEDALS BY THE ROYAL SOCIETY

THE following awards have been made by the Royal Society:

A Royal Medal to Sir William Hardy, F.R.S., for his pioneer work on colloidal chemistry and the theory of lubrication.

A Royal Medal to Professor A. V. Hill, F.R.S., for his distinguished work on the physical and chemical aspects of muscular contraction.

The Copley Medal to Sir Frederick Hopkins, F.R.S., for his distinguished and fruitful work in biochemistry.

The Rumford Medal to Sir Arthur Schuster, F.R.S., for his services to physical science, especially in the subjects of optics and terrestrial magnetism.

The Davy Medal to Sir James Walker, F.R.S., for his work on the theory of ionization and ionic equilibria in solution.

The Darwin Medal to Dr. D. H. Scott, F.R.S., for his contributions to paleophytology, particularly in relation to the period of coal.

The Hughes Medal to Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Jackson, F.R.S., for his pioneer work in the scientific investigation of radio-telegraphy and its application to navigation.

The following is a list of those recommended by the president and council of the Royal Society for election to the council at the anniversary meeting on November 30:

*President*—Sir Ernest Rutherford.
*Treasurer*—Sir David Prain.
*Secretaries*—Mr. J. H. Jeans and Dr. H. H. Dale.
*Foreign Secretary*—Sir Richard Glazebrook.

*Other members of council*—Sir Hugh Anderson, Dr. F. W. Aston, Professor L. Bairstow, Professor F. G. Bower, Sir Archibald Garrod, Professor E. J. Garwood, Sir Thomas Heath, Professor J. P. Hill, Dr. P. Chalmers Mitchell, Professor R. Muir, Sir John Parsons, Sir Robert Robertson, Mr. A. A. C. Swinton, Sir Gilbert Walker, Sir James Walker and Mr. W. C. D. Whetham.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Trudeau Medal for 1926 of the National Tuberculosis Association was awarded at the annual meeting in Washington to Dr. Theobald Smith, Princeton, director of the department of animal pathology of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, who in 1896 first distinguished between the bovine and the human bacillus of tuberculosis.

DR. FRIDTJOF NANSEN was installed as rector of the University of St. Andrews on November 3 after having been admitted to the honorary degree of doctor of laws. The honorary degree of LL.D. was also conferred among others upon Professor Vilhelm F. K. Bjerknes, of the University of Oslo; Professor Bjorn Helland-Hansen, of Bergen; Captain Otto Neumann Sverdrup (captain of the *Fram*), and Sir T. W. Edgeworth David.

DR. CHARLES H. HERTY has resigned the presidency of the Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturers Association of the United States in order to assume the duties of adviser to the Chemical Foundation, Inc. Dr. Herty will devote his entire time to the work of the Chemical Foundation.

DR. CHARLES J. FISH, resident oceanographer at the station of the United States Bureau of Fisheries at Woods Hole, has been appointed director of the new Buffalo Museum of Science.

AT the recent clinical congress in Montreal of the American College of Surgeons honorary fellowships were conferred on Professor Robert Alessandria, of Rome; Professor Archibald Young, of Glasgow; Sir Ewen Maclean, of Cardiff; Professor L. E. Barnett, of Dunedin, New Zealand, and Professors John Fraser and David Wilkie, of Edinburgh.

SENATORE G. MARCONI has been elected an honorary member of the British Institution of Electrical Engineers.

SIR WILLIAM ORPEN is painting a portrait of Professor J. A. Fleming, whose friends and admirers are raising a fund for this purpose. The portrait is to hang in University College, London, with which Professor Fleming has been long connected. A replica of the portrait is also to be presented to the British Institution of Electrical Engineers.

THE engineering department of the University of