

Abbon (and perhaps others). If the labels are multigraphed and in script, there is no reason to doubt their authenticity. Labels ($1\frac{7}{8}$ by 4 inches) issued at the U. S. National Herbarium and headed "Plants of Mexico," with printed locality, also are authentic. Beware of large ($5\frac{1}{4}$ by $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches) labels, surrounded by a black frame, with the heading "Plantae Mexicanae," and bearing two names of collectors, Arsène and Nicolás, one or both of which are deleted with pen and ink. Plants with such labels are almost certainly false. Either they were not collected in Mexico, or else they were collected by Pringle at another date and locality than that specified. It is best to destroy all plants bearing such labels. All labels of this type bearing the name "Herrera" as collector are fictitious and should be disregarded.

In closing, I can not state in too strong terms that no blame for this condition of affairs attaches to Brother Arsène; rather, he has been made the victim of an unfortunate conspiracy, if such it may be termed. No more conscientious or industrious collector has ever worked in Mexico, and he has contributed in a very large measure to our knowledge of the Mexican flora.

PAUL C. STANDLEY

U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE HARVARD AFRICAN EXPEDITION

THE Harvard African Expedition began its work in Liberia early in July and left there on November 21. It arrived in Matadi, at the mouth of the Congo, on December 3.

The purposes of the expedition were to make a biological and medical survey of Liberia and to make biological and medical collections there and in the Congo. In the field of medicine the party has obtained valuable data and pathological material which will require prolonged study in the home laboratories. The zoological and botanical collections include biting and parasitic insects, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, molluscs, flowering plants and fungi. The amphibians and the snakes among the reptiles are particularly well represented. The collections of woody plants and orchids are likewise very comprehensive.

Much of the material has been obtained from parts of the interior in which no scientific collecting has been done before and where no medical studies have hitherto been made. In the course of their work, members of the expedition traversed the country in two directions, traveling on foot more than 500 miles and reaching the eastern and southeastern frontiers.

Although some of the party were attacked by fever, all are now in their usual good health.

Dr. Glover M. Allen, having completed the zoological part of the work which was planned for Liberia, has returned to Cambridge to take up his duties at the university. The remaining personnel of the expedition is as follows: Dr. Richard P. Strong, Dr. George C. Shattuck, Dr. Max Theiler and Dr. Joseph Bequaert, of the department of tropical medicine; Dr. David Linder, botanist; Mr. Loring Whitman, photographer, and Mr. Harold Coolidge, assistant zoologist.

The expedition will proceed up the Congo and is expected to reach Mombassa, on the eastern coast of the continent, in April or May.

THE NEW YORK STATE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL AND INSTITUTE

CONTRACTS for the construction of the new State Psychiatric Hospital and Institute, to be built in New York on a site provided by Columbia University at 168th Street and Riverside Drive, were awarded on December 30 at the final meeting of the State Hospital Commission, which has now been succeeded by the Department of Mental Hygiene.

The institution will be a center for scientific research into causes and prevention of mental disorders and as a teaching center for the training of mental specialists. In it the research work of fourteen civil State hospitals will be coordinated.

The new building will be of eleven stories. The hospital will provide beds for 210 patients of both sexes. An entire floor will be given over to the children's department, with school rooms, work shops and play rooms.

All varieties of adult mental diseases will be studied. There will be the latest diagnostic and treatment facilities, including hydrotherapy, electrotherapy, occupational therapy, light therapy, physiotherapy, gymnastic psychotherapy and special medical and surgical procedures. Most of two floors will be devoted to the out-patient department.

The tower, rising nine stories above the main structure of eleven floors, will house the library, museum record rooms, doctors' offices, staff conference class rooms and various research laboratories designed and equipped for special studies in neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, neuropathology, clinical pathology, chemistry, bacteriology, serology, endocrinology and experimental psychology.

Being close to the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center and medical college, the Institute will provide for psychiatric instruction in connection with virtually all its departments. Its teaching facilities will