the buildings and equipment, which exceeds £120,000. Zoology occupies the ground floor, brewing and biochemistry of fermentation the greater part of the first floor and botany the second floor, with certain rooms also on the first floor.

The departments have already started work in the new buildings, although the internal equipment and furnishing are not yet complete. Apart from facilities for teaching, the zoological department is admirably equipped for research. A large sum of money has been expended on apparatus, which includes elaborate instruments used in the newer experimental development of the science. The necessity of having the means of keeping marine animals alive far away from the sea has been recognized, and tank rooms have been provided, containing aquaria, with arrangements for filtering, circulating and aerating the sea-water, which will be obtained from Plymouth. The new department is particularly well equipped for entomological teaching and research, there being a special room for this work in the building itself and an outdoor laboratory for insect-breeding work, and students will have access to a large fruit farm in Worcestershire for a part of their field training in the agricultural aspect of the subject. The brewing and biochemistry of fermentation department consists of a series of sixteen rooms. There is a spacious general laboratory, a well-appointed microscope room and a research laboratory. A special laboratory is provided for analysis, as well as an incubator room and dark rooms for photography and polarimetric work. The laboratories are equipped with the latest forms of apparatus in addition to recent researches on starch investigations.

The new botanical department comprises some thirty-three rooms, and the laboratories are especially fitted for studying fungi by the method of pure cultures, while ample provision has been made for the study of plant physiology by experiments in which open air is necessary.

DARWIN'S HOME FOR THE NATION

IN his presidential address to the British Association, Sir Arthur Keith made an appeal for a fund to purchase Darwin's home at Downe in Kent, where he did most of his epoch-making work, so that it might be preserved for the nation. According to the London correspondent of the *Journal* of the American Medical Association the appeal met with a prompt response. Mr. George Buckston Browne, a retired genito-urinary surgeon, on reading the appeal at once telegraphed to Sir Arthur offering to make himself wholly responsible for the gift. His motive was to allow future generations to see Darwin's home, which, with its estate, might otherwise pass into the hands of builders. The cost, with some endowment fund, is estimated at from $60,000 to $75,000. Mr. Browne has made it a condition that no other contributor is to be asked to share the cost with him. He was admitted to the membership of the College of Surgeons in 1874, and for fourteen years acted as assistant to Sir Henry Thompson, the leading genito-urinary specialist of his day. He is an antiquarian and an enthusiastic collector. In offering to buy Downe House and to establish a fund for its perpetual upkeep, he is giving expression to his profound admiration for the work of the great naturalist. He considers that the house in which evolution was cradled should be as reverently preserved as Shakespeare's birthplace. He desires that the house should be restored as nearly as possible to its condition when Darwin lived there. When the house and garden have been restored, he would wish them to be opened without charge to visitors, who could then be shown Darwin's study, laboratory and living rooms much as when he left them. He also expressed the wish that some physician of slender means and good record should be appointed the custodian. Sir Arthur Keith has suggested that out of the endowment fund money should be spared for a prize to be given every second year for the best contribution to biologic knowledge. Downe House is the property of Darwin's son, Professor Francis Darwin and is now used as a school for girls.

BUILDING ACTIVITIES OF THE CHICAGO ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

THE report of the first year's building activities of the Chicago Zoological Society shows the new park to be well under way and much construction work already completed. According to a summary in *Museum News*, it is now estimated that the major portion of the work will be completed by June 1, 1930, and that the park will be opened to the public at that time.

During the past few months the new park, which is located to the west of the city proper and just outside the town of Riverside, has been entirely fenced in. Within this enclosure are 133 acres of land and fifty additional acres are available for future development. Over ten miles of sanitary and surface sewers have been laid. Water mains have been laid and heating and power lines put in place.

The excavations for three separate lagoons are nearly complete, as well as the construction of a complete power and pumping station. Work has already been started on the group of buildings at the entrance. These will house the administration offices, curators, head keeper, forester, director, the society's meeting room and library. The only exhibition building to be started this year is the reptile house. In addition to the work being done within the new park,

the county has begun the construction of roads which will connect the zoo with the main boulevards of the vicinity.

It is felt that the plan for the park embodies some noteworthy features made possible by a study of existing parks in Europe and in this country, and by the fact that the entire park is being planned at one time upon a large scale. Automobile traffic is being entirely separated from pedestrians and will follow a circular roadway just inside the fence.

A system of deep moats is to be used in the place of bars to confine the animals whenever possible. This and other arrangements will do much to avoid the cramped conditions often prevailing in zoological gardens.

While nothing has been done as yet toward acquiring a collection for the new park, a tentative list of inhabitants has been worked out. This includes 876 specimens of mammals divided into 269 species; 2,398 birds of 794 species; 300 reptiles representing 75 species, and 90 batrachians of 30 species. There will also be an insect collection including about 200 species.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. FREDERIC A. LUCAS, honorary director of the American Museum of Natural History, has been elected an honorary member of The Museums Association, Great Britain. This is the first time that the distinction, restricted to fifteen persons, has been conferred upon any one outside of Great Britain.

IN addition to the medals awarded to Dr. W. D. Coolidge, Professor A. A. Noyes and Professor J. C. McLennan previously announced in SCIENCE, the Royal Society has awarded a royal medal to Sir Thomas Lewis, F.R.S., for his researches upon the vascular system, following upon his earlier work on the mammalian heart-beat; the Copley medal to Sir Charles Sherrington, O.M., F.R.S., for his distinguished work on neurology, and the Buchanan medal to Dr. Major Greenwood for his statistical researches and other work in relation to public health.

DR. GRAHAM LITTLE, member of parliament, for London University, has been elected an honorary member of the Royal Academy of Medicine of Rome, and a fellow of the Royal Society of Physicians of Budapest.

A SPECIAL number of the *Zeitschrift für physikalische Chemie* has been dedicated to Professor Ernst Cohen, of the University of Utrecht, to commemorate the twenty-fifth year of his professorship.

PROFESSOR PAUL LECENE, who occupies the chair of surgical pathology in the Paris Faculty of Medicine, has been nominated an officer of the Legion of Honor.

DR. LEE K. FRANKEL, former president of the American Public Health Association, will be guest of honor at a testimonial dinner to be given on December 9 at the Biltmore Hotel by friends associated with him in health work. The speakers will include Felix M. Warburg, Professor C-E. A. Winslow and Haley Fiske.

SIR CHARLES MARTIN, director of the Lister Institute, upon whom the honor of knighthood was recently conferred, has been presented with his portrait by the staff of the institute as a token of personal esteem and appreciation of his great services during the twenty-four years of his directorship. The presentation of the portrait took place in the library of the institute on October 28, when Professor Harden presided over a large company of past and present members of staff and research workers.

FREDERIC S. LEE, research professor of physiology in Columbia University, has resigned the presidency of the board of managers of the New York Botanical Garden after a service of five years.

AT the annual meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union held at the U. S. National Museum from November 14 to 17, the following officers for the year 1926–1927 were elected: Alexander Wetmore, assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, *president;* T. S. Palmer and W. L. McAtee, of the U. S. Biological Survey, *secretary and treasurer.*

THE following officers have been elected by the American Society of Agronomy: Dr. A. G. McCall, *president;* Dr. E. F. Gaines, *first vice-president;* Dean M. J. Funchess, *second vice-president;* Professor W. W. Burr, *third vice-president;* Dr. A. B. Beaumont, *fourth vice-president;* Professor J. D. Luckett, *editor,* and Dr. P. E. Brown, *secretary-treasurer.*

DR. WALTER L. NILES, dean and professor of clinical medicine of Cornell University Medical College, was elected president of the Association of American Medical Colleges at its recent annual meeting in Montreal; Dr. Burton D. Myers, assistant dean and professor of anatomy, Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, vice-president; Dr. Irving S. Cutter, dean and associate professor of medicine, Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago, chairman of the executive committee, and Dr. Fred C. Zapffe, 25 East Washington Street, Chicago, secretary-treasurer. The next annual meeting will be at Indianapolis from October 29 to 31, 1928.

AT the annual general meeting of the Mineralogical Society, England, held on November 1, Dr. G. T.