The late Dr. Robert Abbe was a famous surgeon of New York City. The last three or four years of his life he became much interested in the American Indian, particularly of the Mount Desert region.

Dr. Abbe cooperated with Mr. George B. Dorr, superintendent of the Lafayette National Park, Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Walter G. Ladd, Miss Carpenter, Miss Moon and many other summer residents of Bar Harbor in making possible the museum. It was first called the Lafayette National Park Museum of Stone Age Antiquities, but by common consent the title has been changed to the Robert Abbe Memorial Museum.

The setting is at the foot of Flying Squadron Mountain, and is distant five hundred feet from Sieur de Monts spring. The style of architecture is a modification of the Italian. The building is stucco and white stone, with red tile roof. From the building radiate various trails, and above towers the mountain. When the building was dedicated in August, it was the consensus of opinion that the site selected by Dr. Abbe and his associates was unequaled in scenic beauty.

The interior of the museum itself is of great simplicity and dignity, the space enclosed not more than twenty by thirty-five feet, since it was the purpose of the directors to establish what might be termed a trailside museum.

On the walls are hung relief maps made by Dr. Abbe himself, who was not merely a surgeon, but a sculptor and artist as well. These maps present the topography and geology of the Mount Desert region, the voyage of Champlain and the early settlements. Later there is to be added the chief Indian villages.

The collections are restricted to some three thousand objects illustrating the life of the prehistoric rather than the later Indians, and are confined to objects found within fifty miles of Bar Harbor.

The museum is to be open from the first of June until the first of October each year, and will be guarded during the winter by the Park Service.

From the day of opening until the end of September the average attendance has been over two hundred persons during week-days, and from five hundred to eight hundred on Sundays.

The writer had charge of the installation and field work the past summer, and eight miles north of the museum discovered a large kitchen midden very rich in bone harpoons, knife handles, knives and various stone objects. Eight hundred of these specimens were placed in a case by themselves as a special exhibit illustrating the life of the people of one site.

WARREN K. MOOREHEAD

PHILLIPS ACADEMY,
ANDOVER, MASS.

THE BOND ASTRONOMICAL CLUB

AN opportunity for any one seriously interested in astronomy to take part in scientific investigations is opened through plans developed at the recent meeting of the Bond Astronomical Club at the Harvard Observatory. The would-be investigators will be able to work under competent leadership in one or more of five different research groups, dealing with the study of meteors, the photography of stars and other celestial phenomena, the investigation of variable stars on plates in the Harvard collection, the computation of the position and motion of the moon, and certain historical and bibliographic studies.

The Bond Astronomical Club, founded four years ago to bring together the professional and amateur astronomers of the community, as well as the astronomically interested public, has in the past confined its activities mainly to monthly meetings at the observatory and to the conducting of two series of "Open Nights," one for Cambridge school children and the other for the public. A meeting place and telescopic facilities have been placed at the disposal of the club by the Harvard Observatory. More than a thousand pupils of the seventh and eighth grades of the Cambridge public schools visited the observatory last year under the guidance of their teachers to hear short illustrated talks on astronomy and to look at moon, stars or planets through some of the observatory's telescopes.

To assist in the new club activity, members of the observatory staff now volunteer to act as leaders of study groups so that volunteer workers with scientific interests may have an opportunity to develop a useful scientific hobby and do practical and scientific investigation on one or two or more evenings a month. Membership in the Bond Club and in the study groups is open to any one seriously interested in the work.

The group of workers on variable stars will have access to the great Harvard collection of stellar photographs and will study the variations and discover the nature of the remarkable reddish stars that appear to stand at the very dawn of stellar evolution. For many years amateur astronomers all over the world, under the guidance of the Harvard Observatory, have successfully observed these stars visually, with their own telescopes; but this is the first opportunity ever offered for the amateur to learn the art of making the still more useful photographic observations.

One of the subjects to which the club will devote particular attention for the next month will be the coming annual shower of shooting stars in the middle of November. The most important and spectacular meteor displays of this generation will probably be these November showers during the next few years.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: *President,* Dr. Harlow Shapley, director of the Harvard Observatory; *Vice-president,* Professor Lewis A. Brigham, Boston University; *Secretary,* Mr. Frank S. Hogg, Harvard Observatory; *Treasurer,* Mr. Freeman D. Miller, Winchester; *Councillors,* Mr. Percy Witherell, Jamaica Plain; Mr. Horace Taylor, Cambridge; Mrs. Eleanor Ingelfinger, Swampscott.

THE RUMFORD FUND

FOR nearly one hundred years the American Academy of Arts and Sciences has maintained a standing committee of seven persons, called the Rumford Committee. This committee receives and deals with applications for grants of money in aid of researches in light and heat, branches of science in which the founder, Benjamin Count Rumford, was particularly interested. Since 1839, the American Academy, through its Rumford Committee, has made 270 grants of this character, in sums between $25 and $750, averaging about $260.

Applications may be accepted from any duly qualified resident of North America or of the American islands. Applications should indicate the nature of the research and the particular aid sought. Grants may be applied to furnishing apparatus which remains the property of the academy, or to the printing and publishing of the results; but are not applicable to assistants. The research subjects within the scope of the fund are light and heat, including X-rays. Applications should be addressed to the Rumford Committee, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Boston.

A. E. KENNELLY,
Chairman

CONFERRING OF THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL ON MR. EDISON

MR. THOMAS A. EDISON received on October 20 from Mr. Andrew W. Mellon, Secretary of the Treasury, the medal conferred on him by act of the Congress. The address was made by President Coolidge over the radio as given on page 389. In concluding his address in presenting the medal Secretary Mellon said:

It is that genius which has made possible the achievements of Thomas A. Edison. It has set him apart as one of the few men who have changed the current of modern life and set it flowing in new channels. Such men appear only at rare intervals in the world's history. They belong to no nation, for their fame, no less than their achievements, transcends national boundaries. America is proud that she has given such a man to the world and, as an expression of what the nation feels, Congress has directed that a gold medal be struck in commemoration of what Thomas A. Edison has done in illuminating the path of progress through the development and application of inventions that have revolutionized civilization in the last century. It is my privilege, Mr. Edison, to present to you this medal as a token of the high esteem and grateful appreciation of your country.

On receiving the medal from Secretary Mellon, Mr. Edison responded as follows:

Mr. President, Mr. Secretary and honored guests—in accepting the medal which has been awarded to me, I do so with a keen appreciation of the great honor that has been conferred on me. To my mind there is a profound significance in this token of the esteem and good-will of my fellow countrymen as expressed by their representatives in Congress. This medal will be a source of pride and veneration to my family as well as to myself and will be preserved in my home with my choicest possessions.

For the occasion the British government returned to Mr. Edison the first talking machine, which was loaned to the British Patent Office Museum forty-five years ago.

The concluding address was made by President John Grier Hibben, president of Princeton University.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

A MONUMENT in honor of Joseph Henry was unveiled in Albany on October 18 at the time of the annual convocation of the University of the State of New York. The presentation to the city was made by William Gorham Rice, vice-president of the Albany Institute of History and Art. It was accepted by Mayor John Boyd Thatcher, 2d. Professor Islay F. McCormick, head master of the Albany Academy, spoke in appreciation of the monument having been placed in front of the academy where Henry carried out his experiments on the electromagnet. Dr. John H. Finley, of the New York *Times,* formerly New York State Commissioner of Education, made the principal address.

A DIPLOMA of membership in the Berlin Geographical Society was presented on October 14 to Dr. C. F. Marbut, chief of soil survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture. The presentation was made in Washington by Professor A. Penck, president of the society. Dr. Marbut was elected a corresponding member of the society at its centenary meeting some months ago.

THE Grasselli Medal Committee of the Society of Chemical Industry has voted to award the Grasselli Medal for 1928 to Dr. H. J. Rose for his paper on the "Importance of Coal Preparation in the Manufacture of Gas and Coke." This medal is awarded