

in the approaching Royal Academy exhibition (May 1). The price in the catalogue will be £300. I wish someone would present it to Down House. The Japanese Government wants a copy for Tokio.

In order to advance the most interesting movement to restore to Down House memorabilia of Darwin, the following committee of members of the American Association has been appointed to cooperate with the British Association:

Dr. Andrey Avinoff  
Dr. William Beebe  
Dr. Nathaniel Lord Britton  
Dr. Frank Michler Chapman  
Dr. E. G. Conklin  
Dr. Joseph Grinnell  
Dr. Henry Fairfield Osborn  
Dr. George Howard Parker  
Dr. Frank Alexander Wetmore  
Dr. William M. Wheeler

On May 8 the following cable was received from the British Association:

PROFESSOR OSBORN, American Museum of Natural History, N. Y.

Formal opening Darwin's house June seventh. Council delighted if you could name representative American Association able attend giving postal address for invitation.

HOWARTH, *Secretary* British Association

In response to this cable a representative, or representatives, of the American Association will be selected. The return of Down House as a British national monument is an event in which biologists in all parts of the world will rejoice. Gradually much of the original furniture of the house will be returned and already many very interesting memorabilia in the form of original Darwin letters, original editions of Darwin's works, and volumes from Darwin's own library have found their way back to Down.

When the present writer visited Down in 1926, accompanied by Major Leonard Darwin, and stood on the spot where the immortal "Origin of Species" was written, he joined Sir Arthur Shipley, Sir Arthur Keith and several others in the resolve that this classic center of biology should be returned to its original purpose.

HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN  
AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### RESEARCH RESERVES IN THE NATIONAL FORESTS

CREATION of "research reserves" and "primitive areas" in the national forests for permanent preservation in their natural state has been announced as a

policy of the U. S. Forest Service. Research reserves will be set apart for scientific and educational purposes and primitive areas will be maintained to offer to the nature lover and student of history a representation of conditions typical of the pioneer period.

"With the exception of the national parks and Indian reservations," the Forest Service says, "the national forests include the only considerable areas of land within the United States in which the original or virgin conditions have not been much modified by human action. Each year invasion threatens some such areas.

"Reduction of all wild areas to a common level would constitute an irreparable loss to science and education. Lost, too, would be the social advantage of preserving some examples of the conditions under which the nation developed and which influenced national ideals, traditions and modes of life. The economic desirability of outdoor recreation in such primitive areas is obvious."

Tracts appropriate for both research reserves and for primitive areas will be designated in each of the major forest regions. So far as practicable, the system of research reserves will be designed eventually to insure the preservation of virgin areas typifying all important forest conditions in the United States. Within these reserves, scientific and educational use will be exclusive except as public use for recreation may be found compatible with scientific studies. In determining the boundaries of research reserves, however, care will be taken to avoid the unnecessary inclusion of lands not vitally essential to scientific use, and which would be of greater public service under other forms of use. Scientific agencies outside the government may use the reserves freely.

Regulations governing the primitive areas will allow considerable leeway to take care of particular situations. In general, however, the areas will be maintained as nearly as practicable in a state of primitive simplicity. The Forest Service will favor liberal use of the primitive areas by the public without restrictions other than those imposed by the fire regulations and the state laws on sanitation.

Some of the National Forest districts have already set aside certain "wilderness" areas, to be maintained free from occupancy or industrial development. The preservation of research and primitive areas is now to be made a part of the Forest Service program on a nation-wide basis.

### EXPEDITION FOR THE STUDY OF GORILLAS

AN African expedition to seek adult specimens of gorillas for anatomical and anthropological study has been organized and financed by Columbia University. It is a joint enterprise of the department of anatomy

of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia and of the department of comparative anatomy of the American Museum of Natural History.

Henry C. Raven, associate curator of the American Museum of Natural History, who has made previous trips to Africa, will lead the party, which will include Dr. William K. Gregory, professor of vertebrate paleontology, Columbia, and curator of the department of comparative and human anatomy of the American Museum of Natural History; Dr. J. H. McGregor, professor of zoology, Columbia, and research associate in human anatomy at the museum, and Dr. E. T. Engle, associate professor of anatomy, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia.

The party plans to leave New York on the *Aquitania* on May 29, for Southampton. After obtaining equipment in London and Brussels, they will sail from Marseilles, proceeding through the Mediterranean and the Red Sea to Dar-es-Salaam, the port of entry in East Africa. They will probably go from there to Kigoma on Lake Tanganyika, thence to the Kivu Plateau to remain two or three months, after which the journey will be continued to one of the tributaries of the Congo River, and down to the West Coast. They expect to return early next year.

Sanction has been given by the Belgian government for the scientists to endeavor to obtain several specimens of the mountain gorilla, found in the Belgian Congo, outside the sanctuary known as the Park d'Albert Nationale. In the French Congo, on the west coast, with the sanction of the French government, a few specimens of the lowland gorilla will be collected.

Arrangements of the party are in charge of a committee of which Dudley J. Morton, associate professor of anatomy at Columbia, is chairman. Other members are the four members of the expedition and Dr. S. R. Detwiler and Dr. Philip E. Smith, both Columbia professors of anatomy.

President Nicholas Murray Butler is chairman ex officio of the advisory committee, members of which are: Dr. William Darrach, dean of the College of Physicians and Surgeons; Frank D. Fackenthal, secretary of Columbia; Dr. Henry Fairfield Osborn, president of the American Museum of Natural History, and George H. Sherwood, director of the museum.

#### THE AERONAUTIC MEETING AT ST. LOUIS

THE Aeronautic Meeting to be held under the auspices of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in St. Louis, May 27-30, will have over forty papers on the technical program. Among the presiding officers for the sessions are Major-General Jas.

E. Fechet, Chief U. S. Army Air Corps; Brigadier-General W. E. Gilmore, Commander, Wright Field, and Chief of Material Division, U. S. Army Air Corps; Dr. Karl Arnstein, vice-president, Goodyear-Zeppelin Corporation; Chas. L. Lawrance, president, Wright Aeronautical Corporation; Hon. Wm. P. MacCracken, assistant secretary, Department of Commerce; William Mayo, chief engineer, Ford Motor Co.; Dr. Geo. K. Burgess, director U. S. Bureau of Standards; Captain Emory S. Land, vice-president, Daniel Guggenheim Fund for Promotion of Aeronautics; Colonel V. E. Clark, former chief aeronautical engineer, U. S. Army; Major Thomas Morgan, president, Sperry Gyroscope Co.; Porter Adams, former president, National Aeronautic Association, and Professor Alexander Klemin, director, Daniel Guggenheim School of Aeronautics, New York University. Among others present will be Sir Hubert Wilkins, who has just returned from the South Pole, Amelia Earhart, transatlantic flier, Orville Wright and Elmer A. Sperry.

Many exhibits are being arranged. In the lobby of the Jefferson Hotel there will be a replica of the "Spirit of St. Louis," anti-aircraft gun mounts, parachutes, balloon baskets, a mosaic air picture of St. Louis comprising about 1,000 exposures. The St. Louis Public Library and all its branches will have special exhibits of airplane models, posters and aerial maps, aviation books, etc.

A novel airplane exhibit will be held at Lambert, St. Louis Flying Field. One hundred and twenty-five American airplane manufacturers have been invited to fly to St. Louis and group their planes for inspection and demonstration to the public of the extent of this industry in America.

On Tuesday, May 28, there will be a special airship program at Scott Field, near St. Louis, the famous Army Airship Field. The banquet on May 29 will have Dr. Stefansson, Arctic explorer, and Sir Hubert Wilkins as the principal speakers. At the banquet will be bestowed the twelve gifts to those whose contributions, in the eyes of the judges, have been exceptionally valuable.

The Garner Cup Air Races will run their finals on May 30 at the Parks Airport, which is to be the final event of the program.

The St. Louis Section of the society has established a fund to provide a "Spirit of St. Louis" A. S. M. E. Gold Medal in Aeronautics. The trust was accepted with the understanding that the first award be made to Daniel Guggenheim. The medal was designed by Professor Victor S. Holm, of Washington University. It is to be presented in St. Louis on the anniversary of Colonel Lindbergh's flight to France.