

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE PAN-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF
GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

AN assembly, at which will be formally organized the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History, will be held in the City of Mexico from September 16 to 22. A rather extensive plan is outlined for the meeting, the first session of which will be held in the Pan-American Hall of the Treasury Department. The address of welcome will be delivered by the chief of the federal district and later in the day the delegates will be presented to the president of the republic.

September 17, 18 and 19 will be devoted to discussion of the statutes for the formation of the institute. A plan for the creation of such an institute was officially presented by the Mexican government through its delegation to the Sixth Pan-American Congress held in Havana in January, 1928. The presiding officer at the sessions on these three days will be Dr. Pedro C. Sánchez, director of Geographical and Climatological Research in Mexico, who first proposed the creation of such an institute and who was technical adviser to the Mexican delegation at the meeting in Havana. On the twentieth will occur the nomination and election of the executive committee of the institute and the selection of the place where the first congress will be held. Following the completion of this business, the delegates will be taken to the Department of Geographical and Climatological Research, located in Tacubaya, a suburb of Mexico City. While there an opportunity will be afforded them to visit the building which the Mexican government is now erecting for the offices of the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History. The assembly will be formally declared closed at a reception given that night by President Portes Gil at Chapultepec Castle.

Several interesting excursions are planned for the delegates by their Mexican hosts, including sightseeing trips about the capital and its environs, and a trip by special train to the School of Agriculture in Chapingo, where a banquet will be given by the Secretary of Agriculture. The delegates will also be taken by special train to the archeological ruins at San Juan Teotihuacán where a banquet will be given by the Secretary of Public Education. Another excursion will be made to the Caverns of Cacahuamilpa, under the auspices of the Secretaries of Communication and Public Works and of Industry, Commerce and Labor. The chief of the Federal District will entertain the delegates at a reception in the Municipal Palace.

THE BASHFORD DEAN MEMORIAL EX-
HIBIT OF FOSSIL FISHES

THE exhibit of fossil fishes in the southeast pavilion of the fourth floor of the American Museum of Natural History, a memorial to the late Bashford Dean, first curator of fishes in this museum, was opened on the afternoon of June 10. President Henry Fairfield Osborn presided over the short meeting which was attended by the immediate family and many personal friends of Dr. Dean, including a number of his colleagues from the two universities (Columbia and New York) in which he was a professor, and the two museums (the American Museum of Natural History and the Metropolitan Museum of Art), in both of which he was long a curator.

President Osborn read a cablegram from Dr. W. K. Gregory, curator of fishes, who is at present on an expedition to Africa. He then paid a brief tribute to Dr. Dean as his student, colleague and friend, and asked Miss Francesca La Monte, assistant curator, to unveil the bronze *bas-relief* tablet which is the gift of his friends from all over the world. He then asked Mr. J. T. Nichols, curator of Recent fishes, to say a few words in explanation of the exhibit. Next he called on Dr. E. W. Gudger, bibliographer and associate in the department, who gave a brief history of the great Dean "Bibliography of Fishes" and of its continuation, and of the plan for the publication of a memorial atlas of the valuable unpublished plates, drawn by Dr. Dean himself, portraying the outer development of certain primitive sharks.

Among the noteworthy collections represented in this exhibit are that of Devonian placoderms made by Professor J. S. Newberry (Dr. Dean's teacher in paleichthyology), the E. D. Cope collection and the Alfred Ely Day collection from Mt. Lebanon, Syria. These form the basis of the exhibit, which from time to time has been augmented by other specimens.

FIELD PARTIES OF THE OKLAHOMA
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

CHAS. N. GOULD, director of the Oklahoma Geological Survey, announces the organization of the following twelve field parties for the present field season:

Charles E. Decker, professor of paleontology at the University of Oklahoma, with assistants Norval Ballard and Ross Maxwell, is making a detailed study of the Simpson formation and the Viola limestone in the Arbuckle Mountain region, this being the third summer Dr. Decker has pursued work in this general region.

Samuel Weidman, professor of geology at the University of Oklahoma, is continuing his studies in the