has been outstanding, and has left with them lasting inspiration. He was always kindly and considerate of others, of even temperament and easy to work with and his optimism was unbounded. His acquaintance was broad and his friends are many.

Dr. Orton's publications, largely on subjects related to plant pathology, comprise some forty or more bulletins and circulars of the Department of Agriculture and many published in outside journals and magazines and by the Tropical Plant Research Foundation.

Dr. Orton is survived by his widow and two daughters, Alberta and Alice, and by two married sisters, who reside in Vermont.

W. W. GILBERT

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

SINANTHROPUS PEKINENSIS

THE Peking correspondent of the London *Times* reports that at an open meeting of the Geological Society of China held on December 28 the closely guarded details of the finding in North China of the skull of a man hundreds of thousands of years old were officially revealed. The discovery, which is claimed to be the most important of its kind, was made on December 2, in a limestone cave deposit at Choukoutien, forty miles from Peking.

The find is said to be a unique specimen, and consists of the greater part of an uncrushed adult skull belonging to an entirely new genus, known to science as *Sinanthropus Pekinensis,* which is definitely placed above the Java ape-man in brain capacity, but below Neanderthal man. The Peking man is considered to antedate Neanderthal man and is held to be nearer the genus *Homo* than the Piltdown and Java types. Estimates of the age of the skull vary greatly. Dr. Grabau, adviser to the Chinese Geological Survey, states that the Peking man lived at the beginning of the Quaternary Period and gives his age as 1,000,000 years, but Père Teilhard Dechardin, president of the Geological Society of France, and also adviser to the Chinese Survey, favors an estimate of 400,000 to 500,000 years.

The credit for the actual discovery of the skull goes to a young Chinese geologist, Mr. W. C. Pei, in charge of the field work of the Geological Survey at Choukoutien last season. Excavations there had previously yielded the major parts of the two lower jaws and numerous teeth and skull fragments of "Peking Man," as well as four tons of fossil remains, including the sabre-toothed tiger, which flourished at the same time as "Peking Man." The skull is still largely embedded in hard travertine, which will require a couple of months of difficult and delicate work to remove, but the vault from the massive brow ridges to the occiput and the whole of the right side have already been freed from the relatively soft matrix, showing that while most of the facial region seems lacking, the brain case is almost completely preserved. The massive jaw sockets are also visible.

Compared with the Java skull which is approximately the same length, the Peking skull is said to possess characteristics which point to relatively greater brain capacity.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RESEARCH LABORATORIES[1]

TENDERS have been invited by the Government of Canada for the construction of a National Research Laboratories building that will cost, when finished, approximately three million dollars. Appointments of chiefs to two of the laboratory divisions has been announced.

Dr. H. M. Tory, formerly president of the University of Alberta, and now the president of the National Research Council, has expressed the view publicly that the new home for research in Canada will be one of the finest to be found in any country. It is being built on the banks of the Ottawa River in the capital city. Designed in the form of a giant figure "8," it will stand 60 feet (four stories) high, 418 feet long, and 176 feet deep. Two hundred and fifty thousand feet of floor space will be provided. Library accommodation will be for 300,000 volumes. An assembly hall and associated rooms will be capable of accommodating the staff and the various scientific societies of the Dominion.

Plans call for the development of the following divisions: The divisions of physics and engineering physics, to the head of which Dr. Robert William Boyle, dean of the faculty of applied science at the University of Alberta, has already been appointed; the division of industrial chemistry, to the head of which Dr. George Stafford Whitby, professor of organic chemistry at McGill University, has been appointed; the division of economic biology and agriculture, to which Dr. Robert Newton, professor of field crops and plant biochemistry at the University of Alberta, is the acting head; the division of industrial engineering, the division of textiles, the division of standards, and such other divisions as improvement in industrial processes, the development of natural resources, and the utilization of waste require.

Dr. Boyle was graduated from McGill University in 1906, and from then until 1909, when he received the Ph.D. degree and the 1851 scholarship, he did research

[1] From *Nature.*