

next fall, a homecoming day will be observed, with suitable exercises. This new property will give the school the opportunity for expansion which it has sought for several years. Its dispensary service will be enlarged and it will be able to undertake a series of research problems having to do with the cause, course and prevention of disease.

THE twelfth annual meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists will be held at the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, from May 21 to 24. The first three days will be devoted to the presentation of papers, included among which will be those comprising a symposium on the gorilla, arranged by Dr. William K. Gregory, and another on the utilization of zoological park collections for research, arranged by Dr. W. Reid Blair.

DURING the recent meeting of the Ohio Academy of Science, the committees appointed on March 8, at

the joint meeting of the Akron Society of Applied Physics and the Central Ohio Physics Club, reported in favor of the formation of the "Ohio Physics Association," consisting of all local clubs and societies that are devoted to physics; and a news publication entitled *Physics News*, whose purpose will be to give personal, industrial and academic news to physicists. One of the purposes of the Physics Association is to edit this *Physics News* and to encourage and provide for joint meetings of various clubs; and to encourage formation of local physics clubs. It is felt that industrial and academic physics may be brought into a closer and better cooperation by such an association, and that high-school physics teachers may receive also some benefits thereof. The affairs of the Physics Association are to be carried on by an executive committee, composed of the last past president of the various clubs.

DISCUSSION

RENEWAL OF THE AMERICAN MUSEUM EXPLORATIONS IN THE GOBI DESERT

IN response to the article which appeared in *SCIENCE*, September 27, 1929, entitled "Interruption of Central Asiatic Exploration by the American Museum of Natural History," and also in response to letters addressed at the same time to the directors of leading institutions in Peiping (Peking), I have received as President of the American Museum of Natural History very courteous letters from three of the leading directors of Peiping institutions as follows:

The National Library of Peiping, Acting Director T. L. Yuan.

The Geological Survey of China, Director W. H. Wong.
The Committee for the Preservation of Ancient Objects, Chairman Tehang Ki; and the Chairman of the Peiping Branch, Dr. Ma Heng.

To these most welcome letters President Osborn sent the following reply in identical language to each of these institutions:

February the first,
Nineteen hundred thirty

DEAR SIR:

I acknowledge with pleasure the receipt of your letter of December 12th in reply to my letter of October 22nd and the copies of *SCIENCE* containing my official report. I am very glad to learn from the concluding paragraph of your letter of your friendship for the American Museum, of your interest in the scientific importance of our Central Asiatic Expeditions and your desire to do all within your power to enable the Expedition to resume its work next year.

The interruption of the Expedition has been a very great blow to the advancement of the sciences of geology

and paleontology. It has entailed very serious financial loss to the American Museum of Natural History; it has been a severe disappointment to the two hundred and fifty-three subscribers to the Central Asiatic Expeditions in thirty-seven states of the Union. It has been a great disappointment to me personally for during my visit to Peking in 1923 I planned with Director V. K. Ting of the Geological Survey and Director Kung Pa King of the Art Museum and others to help build up a natural history museum in one of the palaces, to supply it with specimens of all kinds from our collections here but especially with duplicates from the Asiatic Expeditions.

The representatives of this Museum, Dr. Roy Chapman Andrews and Mr. Walter Granger, are men of the finest personal character, reputation and deportment who have been with me for thirty-nine years and twenty-one years respectively. All the representatives of all the American Museum Expeditions to all parts of the world bear official instructions to exercise great courtesy, integrity and fidelity to the customs and laws of the countries they visit.

Especially as regards human Archaeology and original and historic monuments relating to the civilized history of man, the American Museum has strongly supported the laws of different countries both in the Old and New Worlds. We believe they should be kept in the countries where they are found provided that these countries have the means and the intention of preserving and caring for them as you are now doing in your honorable Society for the Preservation of Ancient Objects.

The American Museum and its representatives in every country have taken an entirely different ground towards geologic, palaeontologic, and zoologic specimens. We have collected fossils in every country and we have welcomed students and explorers from every other country within our states and territories. From time immemorial scientific parties from other countries—from France, Germany, England and other European states—have been

freely collecting fossils in America or freely purchasing them by export through dealers.

These fossils from India and China are generally found in a most fractured and imperfect condition and only through comparison in our Museum with other fossil and living specimens and through access to the vast literature of palaeontology and geology is it possible to determine what they are. I personally have labored for months with the greatest difficulty on the fossils received from the Central Asiatic Expedition and it is only my fifty years of study which have enabled me to correctly interpret those found in the first year before the completion of the United States Geological Survey Monograph which I am now sending to the National Geological Survey of China.

It is very rare that fossils have an intrinsic financial value. Their value comes only from the study which is put upon them. In this respect they differ entirely from archaeological specimens which often have immediate and great intrinsic value.

I hope in this spirit of a new understanding that the National Geological Survey of China will cordially support the renewal of the Central Asiatic Expedition and will trust to our fairness in having due regard to the advance of science in China and our integrity in carrying out our agreements along the lines which prevail in all the countries with which we are in cooperation for the advancement of geology and palaeontology.

Sincerely yours,

HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN,
President

DR. W. H. WONG, DIRECTOR

THE NATIONAL GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CHINA

On March 18, President Osborn received a cable from Dr. Andrews reporting on the result of his negotiations with Professor Ma Heng, Chairman of the Commission for the Preservation of Ancient Objects, requesting that the following announcement be made in SCIENCE:

President Osborn is glad to announce that the difficulties regarding the work of the Central Asiatic Expedition have been satisfactorily adjusted. An understanding has been reached between both the Cultural Society and the Commission for the Preservation of Ancient Objects officially appointed by the Government of Nanking, with the American Museum of Natural History. Members of both the Cultural Society and the Commission for the Preservation of Ancient Objects are in sympathy with scientific men in other parts of the world and appreciate the importance for China and the world of science of mutual harmony, while maintaining for China a primary interest in its scientific treasures. The Central Asiatic Expedition and the Commission for the Preservation of Ancient Objects will cooperate in the coming expedition in results as well as in the scientific study of collections.

This message makes it clear that Dr. Andrews is now making ready to resume the work in Mongolia

this season. Curator Walter Granger, chief palaeontologist of the expedition, now in the American Museum working up the 1928 collections, accompanied by Mr. Albert Thomson, assistant in palaeontology, and Mr. J. McKenzie Young, head of the motor transport, are preparing to sail for China as early as they receive positive word from Chief Andrews.

On March 24 Andrews cabled that the agreement with the Cultural Society and the Commission for the Preservation of Ancient Objects had been signed by both parties, and Messrs. Granger, Thomson and Young are to take the quickest route to Peiping. This means that the expedition will be equipped and ready to start north into the Gobi Desert about May 1. This harmonious outcome of negotiations which have been in progress since August, 1928, will be extremely gratifying to geologists and paleontologists all over the world and will renew the cooperative relations between the American Museum and the scientific institutions of China.

Postscript, April 29: Dr. Roy Chapman Andrews cables that the Chinese Government of Nanking approves the recommendation of the Cultural Society of Peiping for the renewal for the fifth season of exploration in the Desert of Gobi succeeding the active seasons of 1922, 1923, 1925, 1928. Messrs. Granger and Thomson are due to arrive in Peiping on May 9 and Dr. Andrews cables that all the arrangements have been made to reenter Mongolia immediately.

The American Museum of Natural History desires to express to the Cultural Society, the Commission for the Preservation of Ancient Objects and to the Government of Nanking its appreciation of their liberal action in this matter and its desire to cooperate in the advancement of paleontology and geology in China as well as throughout the world.

HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN,
President

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY,
MARCH 24, 1930

AUSTRALOPITHECUS NOT A CHIMPANZEE

Australopithecus, the fossil juvenile anthropoid ape from Taungs, South Africa, has been a center of controversy ever since the preliminary description of the skull by Professor Dart in 1925. Opinions as to its position have ranged from the belief that it is close to the line of human evolution to the view that it is merely a young chimpanzee. Unfortunately, few who have discussed it have seen the original, and have based their opinions on photographs or somewhat inadequate casts.

During a recent visit to Johannesburg I had the pleasure, through the kindness of Professor Dart, of studying the specimen under the guidance of Dr.