

All honor then to him who raised the pile;  
Where daydreams wander through each classic room;  
Where honest speech is never brought to trial,  
Nor trustful candor hear its certain doom.

Defying critics, faithfully thou wrought—  
Thou master builder of a fruitful thought.

ALBERT MOYER

NEW YORK CITY

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE KEW BOTANICAL GARDENS<sup>1</sup>

FOR the public Kew is a delightful pleasure, for the gardener a demonstration of achievement and a suggestion of possibilities, and for the botanist a storehouse of information and a center for research. The recently issued number of the *Bulletin of Miscellaneous Information* (Appendix I., 1930), comprises under this familiar but somewhat unattractive title a review of the work of the various departments of the Royal Gardens during 1929. In 1925 work was begun on the formation of a National Pinetum at Bedgebury, in Kent, as the nearness of London is not conducive to the growth of conifers; and in spite of the long cold winter and abnormally dry summer of 1929, good progress is reported. The abolition of the penny charge for admission to the gardens from August Bank Holiday onwards is reflected in an increase in the number of visitors of nearly 220,000 between August and December, as compared with the corresponding period in 1928. The hard winter of 1928-29 and the boisterous gales of the last two months of the year caused severe losses among shrubs and large trees, but the long hot summer gave an unusual brilliance of color to the abundant crops of fruits and berries on many of the trees, and the later incessant and heavy rains effectively cleansed trees and shrubs from soot and dirt.

The more strictly botanical activities of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, have benefited by generous grants from the Empire Marketing Board, which have rendered possible visits by the scientific staff and various collectors to different parts of the empire overseas and elsewhere, resulting in valuable accessions to the gardens and herbarium, and the gain of invaluable experience to individual members of the staff. Mr. Hutchinson's botanical tour in South Africa produced a harvest of more than 3,000 species, including a large number of living succulent plants. Work of botanical exploration has also been carried out in British Guiana, Persia, Somaliland and the Solomon Islands. Considerable additions have been made to the herbarium, mainly by the incorporation of stored material. An important feature of the work is the international cooperation in research rendered possible by an extension of the system of reciprocal loans between important botanical institutions; during the year more than 9,000 specimens

were borrowed and nearly 6,000 sent out on loan. Botanical work in South Africa will be greatly facilitated by an arrangement to present to the National Herbarium at Pretoria duplicates of authentic specimens in the Kew Herbarium. The report of the museums records an increasing interest taken in the economic products of plants, involving much correspondence and discussion of home and colonial products with visitors. The difficulty in answering questions as to possibilities of new crops for home or the colonies is often enhanced by the lack of discretion on the part of optimistic journalists.

### SUMMER SCHOOL FOR TEACHERS OF ENGINEERING

THE Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education in conjunction with the Carnegie Institute of Technology will conduct a summer school for engineering teachers beginning on June 12 and ending on June 21. The session this summer will be devoted to engineering drawing and descriptive geometry, and will be held on the Carnegie campus.

The summer school is an enterprise growing out of the general investigation of engineering education conducted by the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education. Its general purpose is the improvement of the teaching of engineering. Each session is devoted to the study of methods of teaching a particular subject of the engineering curriculum.

William E. Mott, director of the College of Engineering, and Harry M. McCully, professor of drawing and descriptive geometry at the Carnegie Institute of Technology, are local director and secretary, respectively, of the summer course. Thomas E. French, professor of engineering drawing, Ohio State University, will be chairman of the teaching staff.

The nine-day session will begin with an address of welcome by Mr. John L. Porter, chairman of the trustees' committee of the Carnegie Institute of Technology. The various meetings will be conducted by teachers who are recognized as leaders in their fields. Entertainment features, including a smoker given by the Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania, will be arranged during the session. Trips to the larger Pittsburgh industrial plants have been planned.

Professors from schools in all parts of the country and from Canada and Mexico will attend the meeting. Registration will be limited to a hundred teachers.

<sup>1</sup> *Nature*.