SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

GIFT FROM MR. HARKNESS OF AN EYE INSTITUTE TO THE PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL AT THE COLUMBIA MEDICAL CENTER

MR. EDWARD S. HARKNESS has given an Eye Institute to the Presbyterian Hospital of the Medical Center of Columbia University.

The institute will be under the direction of Dr. John M. Wheeler, professor of opthalmology at the College of Physicians and Surgeons and head of the ophthalmological service at the Presbyterian Hospital. In an account given out by Dean Sage, of the hospital, it is stated that the new building will be twelve stories in height, and will be the first unit in the group of projected specialty hospitals which are to surround the great central garden court lying to the south of the main buildings of the Medical Center. It will provide facilities not only for treatment and hospital care of all classes of eye patients, but also for the teaching of medical students and the training of nurses in this special field, and for routine study and advanced scientific research in all matters relating to this branch of medicine and surgery.

The building will cover an area of 167 by 97 feet. It will be U-shaped in plan with two ward wings extending to the south and forming an entrance court 90 feet wide by 57 feet deep. There will be 114 patients' beds, allotted as follows: Men's wards, 30; women's wards, 18; children's wards, 11; semi-private rooms, 13; private rooms, 12. Residential accommodations will be provided for professional, administrative and nursing staffs to the number of fifty.

The main entrance is in the south court facing 165th Street opening into a spacious waiting hall. The medical reception, examination and emergency treatment rooms adjoin this hall on its easterly side. The administrative offices are on the westerly side and extend through to the private patients' hall, which is entered from Fort Washington Avenue. Private practice offices for staff physicians surround the private patients' hall.

The second floor contains the residential quarters for the staffs and the private offices of the director of the institute. Above this are the ward floors, and the floors devoted to semi-private and private patients' rooms. Provision has been made for beds at all rates, from free ward beds to the most costly private suites.

The operating rooms will be upon the highest main floor and will be surrounded by the usual accessory rooms for operating service. Grouped with the operating rooms in the upper stories will be a large lecture hall, teaching and experimental laboratories, and the departmental library.

Full use will be made of the roofs for open air and sun treatment, relaxation and rest. The central portion of the building, rising above and giving access to the roofs, contains lounge and sun rooms and recreational facilities.

The building of the eye institute has been carefully planned throughout to embody the best and most effective arrangement and equipment in this branch of medicine. In appearance it follows in general the architecture of its predecessors in the Medical Center. Its practical plan was said to be reflected in a simple exterior treatment, which is frankly modern but in full accord with established principles of design. The material is brick with some sandstone trim, all similar in color to the original group. By reason of its location upon a lower site and its modest proportions it has been given a pronounced horizontal treatment in contrast to the adjacent buildings.

THE SIXTEENTH INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

THE Committee on Organization of the Sixteenth International Geological Congress has voted to postpone the meeting of the congress for a year, to the latter part of June, 1933. It was felt that the generally adverse economic conditions throughout the world made this postponement desirable.

The following topics for discussion have been tentatively adopted:

Measurement of geologic time by any method.
Batholiths and related intrusives.
Zonal relations of metalliferous deposits.
Major division of the Paleozoic system.
Geomorphogenic processes in arid regions and their resulting forms and products.
Fossil man and contemporary faunas.
Orogenesis.

The routes of the excursions have been selected and work is well advanced on the preparation of the guide books. A series of excursions before the congress of from 5 to 12 days in length will cover the eastern and central states. These will as far as possible be arranged to appeal to specialists in various branches of geology. There will also be a number of short excursions in the vicinity of New York. During the sessions of the congress, which will last about a week, several short trips will be made to points of interest in the vicinity of Washington. The excursions after the congress will include two in the north-central states—one for glaciologists in Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin and the other for mining geologists in the

Lake Superior iron and copper districts, each of about ten days' duration—and two transcontinental trips, each of about thirty-five days.

A circular is now being prepared giving more detailed information. This will be sent to all those who received the first circular and to others interested who request it from the Secretary, Sixteenth International Geological Congress, U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.

THE AMERICAN SCHOOL OF PREHISTORIC RESEARCH

THE American School of Prehistoric Research, of which Dr. George Grant MacCurdy, of Yale University, is director, has been carrying on excavations in Palestine for three seasons jointly with the British School of Archaeology at Jerusalem. At present (May, 1931) they are digging in caves near Athlit, at the foot of Mount Carmel, with very gratifying results.

The sites include Mugharet-el-Wad, Mugharet-es-Schrool, Mugharet-et-Tabon and Mugharet-el-Kebara. The last is at Zickron Yacob and is proving to be exceptionally rich. It was opened this season, so that its complete sequence of cultures has not yet been uncovered. In the deposits containing a culture known as Mesolithic—older than the Neolithic and younger than the Paleolithic they have already found a mass burial of eight or ten interments. These duplicate in many respects the one found at Mugharet-el-Wad last season. Near the skeletons was a cache of 150 bone beads. Mesolithic microliths are very abundant. Objects of bone are also abundant and well preserved. Many harpoons have also been found.

The prize specimen is a complete haft in bone of a knife or sickle twelve inches in length. The animal represented in the round and terminating the handle is probably a goat. The longitudinal groove for insetting the microliths is too narrow for any but very small ones. The decorated portion of a similar haft in bone was found at Mugharet-el-Wad two years ago.

Most important of all is the skull of a Neandertal child found embedded in breccia of a Mousterian deposit. The find was made by Mr. Theodore D. McCown, representing the American School. This is the third skull of a Neandertal child discovered to date: the first by Henri Martin at La Quina (Charente) during the war; the second by Miss Dorothy Garrod in the rock shelter of Devil's Tower at Gibraltar in 1926. Miss Garrod is in charge of the joint excavations near Athlit. Mr. McCown is a graduate of the University of California and was with Dr. MacCurdy in Europe last summer as a student of the American School of Prehistoric Research.

SUMMER MEETING AND TOUR OF THE AMERICAN PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

THE American Phytopathological Society will hold its third annual summer tour and conference from July 28 to 31, under the immediate direction of Drs. H. W. Anderson, Leslie Pierce, M. W. Gardner and C. T. Gregory.

Assembling on July 28 at Cairo, Illinois, the party will move early on the twenty-ninth along U. S. Route No. 1, visiting the Ozark fruit and vegetable districts where the control of plant diseases will be noted, as well as the nut industry of the region. Original chestnut varieties, the Latham red raspberry in a southern habitat, and the peach harvest will be among the interesting features of the first day's trip, ending at Carbondale, Illinois.

From Carbondale, the party on the second day will proceed to Vincennes, Indiana. *En route,* the famous Johnson County fruit region, the new wilt-resistant water-melon varieties developed by the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station, and the old Rappite settlement of New Harmony will be visited.

The third and last day will be spent in and around Vincennes, where the federal government's experimental control of the oriental fruit moth and bacterial spot of peaches will be the center of attraction.

Among the special features of interest to scientists, aside from the regular diseases of the region, will be the unusual effects of the extremely low temperatures of the winter of 1929–1930 and those attributable to the 1930 drought.

Besides periodic discussions and conferences on the various exhibitions seen by the travelers, specialists on the soils, entomology and horticulture of the visited region, associated with the Illinois and Indiana Agricultural Experiment Stations, will accompany the party to explain those phases of the work more strictly allied to their respective fields.

For those not driving cars will be furnished. Dr. H. W. Anderson, of the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station, Urbana, should be addressed for further particulars and arrangements.

IN HONOR OF PROFESSOR R. W. WOOD

AS has been stated in SCIENCE the honorary doctorate of philosophy has been conferred by the University of Berlin on Professor R. W. Wood, chairman of the department of physics of the Johns Hopkins University. The diploma was presented to Professor Wood at the German Embassy in Washington, with addresses by the German ambassador and Professor Henning, of the Reichsanstalt for Physics and Technology. Professor Henning said;

Owing to a fortunate circumstance I have been assigned by the Faculty of Philosophy of Friedrich Wil-