

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE ALBERT NATIONAL PARK IN THE CONGO

A CORRESPONDENT of *The Geographical Journal*, London, describes the Parc National Albert of the Kivu District of the Congo, which was created mainly for the protection of the mountain gorilla. It was established by Royal Decree on 21 April, 1925, and consisted of 60,000 acres, including the three volcanoes, Mikeno, Karisimbi and Visoke. The area made a splendid wild-life sanctuary. Its remarkable volcanic structure and conformation gave it a special geological and geographical interest. It possessed a flora of exceptional richness and variety ranging from that of the tropics at the mountain foot to that of the alpine meadow near the snow-line. Its fauna was equally varied and peculiar, especially in its possessing the greatest of the apes and the animal most nearly related to man. Its native inhabitants were a pygmy race unusually primitive and interesting to anthropologists. By a later Decree of 6 May, 1929, the Parc was greatly enlarged and placed under the control of an International Commission. It now consists of 500,000 acres divided into four reserves or sectors. It is forbidden under penalty of fine or imprisonment to pursue, capture or molest any animal within these reserves. It is also forbidden to take or destroy the nests of wild birds, to cut down or remove any uncultivated plant, or to alter in any way the natural surface of the country. To the four reserves comprising the main Parc there have been added certain adjacent territories to serve as buffer zones. The restrictions in these zones are less severe. Hunting by visitors is strictly prohibited in them, but the natives are permitted to use their primitive weapons in order to kill animals for food. The International Commission that controls the Parc consists of eighteen persons, of whom one third are chosen from among the members of foreign institutions. The British representatives on the Commission are Viscount Grey of Fallodon and the Earl of Onslow. The Parc National Albert is therefore an international institution and a very practical example of how different countries can combine in the work of protecting Nature. An important feature in the Parc National Albert is that it is designed not only for the preservation of Nature, but also as a place for scientific study. It is hoped that students from all over the world will use it for biological and other investigations. There are now two great sanctuaries in Africa established by law on that rigid foundation which alone gives hope for their long survival. One is the Kruger National Park of the Transvaal; the other is the Parc National Albert of the Congo.

THE HYGIENIC EXPOSITION IN DRESDEN

THE International Hygienic Exposition, which reopened on May 6, is arranged this year, according to a correspondent of the *Journal* of the American Medical Association, to make a more immediate appeal to the layman. An attempt has been made to avoid unduly technical terms and statements, without yielding anything from the standpoint of clearness and accuracy. An entirely new section "Diagnosis and Treatment" reveals the thoroughness, the complex nature and the heavy responsibilities of the medical profession. The set-up brings out that only the physician, who knows the normal body thoroughly, can recognize and cure pathologic departures from normal. It is the opposite of the exhibit presented last year, which revealed the manifestations of quackery and superstition. The management has enlarged a section that awakened particular interest, namely, habit-forming drugs. The results of morphinism, cocaineism and excessive addiction to products bearing nicotine are clearly depicted. In the two first addictions, it is plainly emphasized that addicts are actually ill and must be treated as patients; in the case of nicotine and alcohol addiction that conclusion was avoided. A section termed "health in figures" has the purpose of teaching a correct understanding of medical statistics. With the aid of statistics, sources of error may be exposed that sometimes creep in and disturb a mathematical conception of diseases, thus leading to pessimism whereas actually optimism is in order. Figures showing an apparent increased incidence of certain diseases have often their basis in the fact that new means and methods of diagnosis make possible an earlier and more precise recognition of a disease. Especial interest attaches to the model hospital of eighty rooms, which contains a radium department that has few if any equals. The broad field of industrial hygiene has been completely reorganized. A miniature mine exhibits the large number of arrangements and devices to protect the lives and the health of workmen. The participation of foreign countries this year is gratifying. Austria, Czechoslovakia and France have reorganized their exhibits in a satisfactory manner, having added considerable new material. Several new exhibits have been installed by the Deutsches Hygiene-Museum; constant improvement and modernization are characteristic of this museum.

RESEARCH PROGRAM OF THE ILLINOIS STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

THE Illinois State Geological Survey, by virtue of the action of the State Board of Natural Resources