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, cocainism 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

and Conservation, supported by appropriations made by the last General Assembly and Governor Emmerson, is undertaking an extended program of research which will begin with the occurrence of raw mineral materials in the ground and end with industrial research on utilization and marketing. The program recognizes the need of eight lines of endeavor: (1) special projects to furnish information or solve certain problems of current importance, (2) continuing projects that gradually increase the fund of general information regarding the geology, mineral resources and mineral industrial history of the state, (3) fundamental research into the stratigraphy and structure of the geologic systems of strata, (4) fundamental research into the constitution of the various earth materials, with emphasis on those that are basic to industrial development, (5) chemical and physical research on industrial utilization, (6) study of the flow of minerals into and out of the state and of the trends of the industries as affected by discoveries of new resources, new uses, and new or improved methods of processing, (7) provision of information to the general public, the industries and the various departments of state government, and (8) educational extension and dissemination of knowledge concerning the geology of the state accumulated during the past twenty-six years of investigations, for the benefit of the laymen and the science teachers in the public schools.

The State Geological Survey will now comprise a geological resource section of geological specialists in coal, non-fuels, oil and gas, subsurface data, areal geology, engineering geology, sedimentary petrography, stratigraphy and paleontology; a geochemical section of specialists in organic, physical, analytical and industrial chemistry, and a geophysicist in the broader sense; and a mineral economics section. All these will be supported by the necessary stenographic, clerical and editorial staff. Cooperative topographic mapping with the U. S. Geological Survey will continue on the same scale as heretofore, each organization contributing $50,000 per year.

The urgent need for such an organization of the Illinois Geological Survey to carry out effectively the type of program outlined, was recognized by the mineral industries, engineering organizations, business interests and state officials, and particularly is the need for it evident during the present depression. Fairly adequate appropriations amounting to a total of about $470,000 for the biennium were therefore made by the legislature and the governor.

THE BUFFALO MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

THE eighty-second meeting of the American Chemical Society will be held in Buffalo, New York, from August 30 to September 4. From the tentative program, as given in *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry,* we learn that the registration office at the Hotel Statler will be open on Sunday, August 30, from 4 to 8 p. m., and from 8 a. m. on the following days. At 2 p. m. on Monday there will be a general meeting at Hutchinson High School Auditorium and a symposium under the auspices of the Division of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry on "New Research Tools," under the chairmanship of Dr. Karl T. Compton. Those taking part are expected to include F. G. Cottrell, E. M. Chamot, R. B. Sosman, F. G. Keyes, W. A. Peters, P. K. Frölich, S. Dushman, W. H. Rodebush, C. P. Smyth, D. H. Andrews, G. L. Clark and J. B. Nichols. In the evening at 7 p. m. there will be a subscription dinner, and a reception by the officers of the society, followed by dancing and cards.

Tuesday and Wednesday will be devoted chiefly to divisional meetings and to group dinners and luncheons. On Wednesday evening at 8:30 p. m. Professor Moses Gomberg, of the University of Michigan, will deliver the address of the president on "Valence Variation and Atomic Structure," followed by the initial presentation of the Langmuir award and of the J. F. Schoellkopf Medal. Divisional meetings will be continued on Thursday and inspection trips will be made to the Buffalo Foundry and Machine Company, makers of chemical equipment, and the Dunlop Tire and Rubber Company. There will also be a sightseeing trip to Niagara Falls with transportation by high-speed trolleys. This trip will include an optional visit to the Niagara Falls Power Company's model of Niagara Falls, a trip through the power house on the American side of the Falls and a trip around the Gorge Route. Visitors will assemble about 5:30 for a festival at Victoria Park on the Canadian side, where a picnic supper will be served. The festival will include music, exhibition sports contests and a special illumination of the falls.

On Friday optional inspection trips are planned to the Tonawanda Paper Company, showing some of the largest paper machines in the world; the Consolidated Aircraft Corporation, where the latest commercial models of planes will be exhibited and demonstrated; the Flexlume Corporation, manufacturers of neon signs and illuminated signs; the Curtiss Aeroplane Company, working exclusively on government orders for planes, and Huntley Station of the Buffalo General Electric Company, an unusual steam power plant.

All the divisions will hold sessions at Buffalo and a number of joint meetings and symposia have been planned. The Division of Biological Chemistry will hold a joint session on Tuesday afternoon with the Division of Agricultural and Food Chemistry and on