

ADDITIONS TO THE HERBARIUM OF THE U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM

THE National Museum, with more than 1,500,000 specimens of plants from all over the world, has recently acquired quantities of valuable specimens from South America, according to information recently given to a representative of the *U. S. Daily*.

Among these plants, it is expected, will be found many novelties. About 600 specimens have been brought to the museum by Mr. W. A. Archer, who has been collecting privately many varieties in the Choco region of northwestern Colombia.

Already supplied with a fine Asiatic collection and a good European collection, acquisitions from South America in the past year contributed by two explorers augment the specimens from this region. Many of these plants may prove to have scientific and economic value as the use to which the Indians put them medicinally suggests fertile fields for scientific analysis. However, the museum merely collects, identifies, classifies, and names the specimens, without at-

tempting to experiment with them for scientific possibilities.

The National Geographic Society recently presented a large number of plants collected by E. G. Holt in an expedition to the Upper Orinoco. For several months his expedition was attached to the Brazilian-Venezuelan Boundary Commission, and from this heretofore inaccessible border region the greater part of the collection was taken.

The last trip conducted by the Smithsonian resulted in collecting 9,200 plants. Mr. Archer has contributed about 3,000 to the museum, representing private expeditions by him into Colombia.

The South American collection is growing rapidly. Prior to 1920 there were only two or three collections from this area. Since, the expeditions have been conducted in cooperation with Harvard University and the New York Botanical Garden. Three expeditions have been made into Colombia, two to British Guiana, and two to Ecuador. These journeys were made by the museum as part of a cooperative plan of collecting.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Baly Medal of the Royal College of Physicians of London, conferred every alternate year on the person who shall be deemed to have most distinguished himself in the science of physiology during the two years immediately preceding, has been awarded to Professor W. B. Cannon, of the Harvard Medical School.

THE honorary degree of D.Litt. will be conferred in December by the University of Liverpool on Dr. James Rowland Angell, president of Yale University, formerly professor of psychology in the University of Chicago.

PROFESSOR KASIMIR FAJANS, professor of physical chemistry and head of the chemical laboratory at Munich, has been made an honorary member of the Royal Institution of Great Britain, a distinction which has been conferred on several other German scientific men including Professor Einstein, Professor Ostwald, the chemist, and Professor Laue, the physicist. Professor Fajans gave the George Fisher Baker lectures at Cornell University in 1930.

THE Silver Leibnitz Medal of the Prussian Academy of Sciences has been awarded to Dr. Karl Scheel, professor of thermodynamics at Berlin, and to Dr. Agnes Bluhm, of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for biology.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association reports that Dr. Edward O. Otis, of Exeter, New

Hampshire, formerly of Boston, was recently honored by more than a hundred physicians, nurses and health workers at a special meeting at the headquarters of the Boston Tuberculosis Association to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of his service in that field. Dr. Otis, who is an honorary president of the Massachusetts Tuberculosis League and a former president of the National Tuberculosis Association, was presented with a purse of gold on behalf of the league. Speakers on this occasion included Drs. Frederick T. Lord, George H. Bigelow, state commissioner of health, and John B. Hawes II. Dr. Otis, who is eighty-three years old, is also professor emeritus of pulmonary diseases and climatology at Tufts College Medical School.

DR. ALBERT H. MILLER, associate editor of the *Rhode Island Medical Journal*, Providence, was recently awarded the Fiske Fund Premium for his essay entitled "Anesthetics—Their Relative Values and Dangers." Established ninety-six years ago by the will of Dr. Caleb Fiske, one of the early presidents of the Rhode Island Medical Society, the fund provides for an award to the author of the best essay submitted each year and for the subsequent publication of the essay.

LORD BALFOUR, of Burleigh, has been elected president of the British Royal Sanitary Institute, in succession to the late Duke of Northumberland.