

According to the *London Times* the new buildings, which are already more than half-way to completion, cover the greater part of a block bounded on the east by Gordon Street and on the south by Gower Place, and adjoin the headquarters of the National Union of Railwaymen. Part of the site available was occupied until the present year by the Wellcome Museum of Medical Science and the Wellcome Bureau of Scientific Research, which were established before the war and enlarged and reopened in 1926. The building then existing has been pulled down, and the bodies concerned transferred to other quarters until the new research institution building is completed this spring, when they will be extended over the old site.

It is intended to maintain the Wellcome Museum of Medical Science, with its special exhibits covering tropical medicine and hygiene, upon the ground floor of the new building, with administrative offices, store-rooms and lecture-rooms on the basement floors. University classes have made constant use of the old museum, together with many general practitioners and consultants, and the extension has been made principally to enable the teaching facilities of the museum and the Wellcome Bureau of Scientific Research, which it serves, to be extended. The floors above the third story will be utilized principally for laboratories, and it is expected that the accommodation offered hitherto by twelve laboratories to students of medical zoology, parasitology, bacteriology and chemotherapy will be roughly doubled. Physiological and entomological laboratories will be established in the new building, though the Entomological Field Laboratory at Claremont, Esher and the Physiological Research Laboratories at Beckenham will continue undisturbed.

The three floors of the new building immediately above the ground floor and below the new laboratories will be given over to the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum, which will be entirely transferred from its present premises in Wigmore Street next year. While room has been found in Wigmore Street to exhibit such memorial collections as those of Jenner and Lister, and galleries have been devoted to primitive medicine and surgery, and to the folk-lore and anthropological collections associated with them, there has hitherto been insufficient space to show either the links between individual modern pioneers or more than a tenth of the primitive collections.

At the ceremony a bronze casket containing the historical records of the Wellcome Research Laboratories and Museums was inserted in the corner-stone by Dr. Wellcome and Mr. George E. Pearson, and the stone was laid by Lord Moynihan with a silver trowel presented by the architect, Mr. Septimus Warwick.

In his address, Lord Moynihan paid tribute to the forty years' work of Dr. Wellcome in promoting medical research.

NEW BIRD SANCTUARIES

THE Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, of which Secretary Hyde, of the Department of Agriculture, is chairman, authorized on December 3 the acquisition of lands by the Bureau of Biological Survey for ten migratory game-bird refuges in New York, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Nebraska, North Dakota, Wyoming and Nevada. The area amounts to 43,227 acres. The cost to the government will average \$5.74 an acre.

Including the lands approved by the commission, 154,744 acres have been authorized for acquisition by lease and by purchase since the migratory-bird refuge program was initiated in 1930. In addition 65,970 acres have been set aside by executive order and presidential proclamation, making a total of 220,713 acres established or in the process of being established as inviolate federal sanctuaries for migratory birds. Refuges have been established in California, Nevada, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Maryland and New York. The average cost per acre of all lands approved for purchase under the act is \$4.30.

In New York the commission authorized the leasing of lands for the Hempstead Migratory Bird Refuge, an area of 2,274 acres of land and water adjacent to Howlett, Long Island. Because it is on the Atlantic coast flight route of migratory birds and near to the metropolitan area of New York this is considered an important link in the eastern chain of refuges.

An important acquisition is the Blackwater Migratory Bird Refuge on the eastern shore of Maryland. This unit, situated about 10 miles from Cambridge, Maryland, contains approximately 10,000 acres, including marshes where black ducks and blue-winged teal breed in greater numbers than on any other area on the eastern seaboard south of Labrador. Mallards and pintails also concentrate on the marshes during the migration season.

In the Swanquarter Migratory Bird Refuge in Hyde County, North Carolina, acquisition of 3,600 acres contiguous to tracts previously approved was authorized. With the water areas this tract borders, the refuge will now make an administrative unit of about 25,000 acres.

Acquisition in South Carolina of approximately 414 acres of land will complete consolidation of government-owned land in the Cape Romain Refuge. The total area in this unit is now about 33,000 acres.

The acquisition of 5,285 acres for the St. Marks Refuge, Florida, will consolidate the government

holdings there. With nearly 14,000 acres approved for acquisition a year ago this brings the total area in the process of acquisition to 19,167 acres.

Crescent Lake Migratory Bird Refuge, Nebraska, will be extended by the acquisition of 1,688 acres, including several extensive water areas and numerous ponds and potholes. The acquisition will also tend to round out the boundaries of this sanctuary, which now includes about 40,000 acres.

By approving the acquisition of numerous small tracts bordering on Long Lake, in Kidder and Burleigh Counties, North Dakota, the commission took steps looking to the establishment of the first federal migratory-bird refuge in that state. The total area approved Dec. 3 for acquisition there is 4,269 acres.

The acquisition of 3,465 acres in Wyoming is the first to be approved for that state. Two refuges about 12 miles apart, one at Bamforth Lake and the other at Hutton Lake, both near Laramie, will be acquired.

The lands being acquired in Nevada will be additions to the 17,902 acres of the Fallon Migratory Bird Refuge set aside from the public domain by executive order in February, 1931, as a sanctuary for migratory birds. The total area will now be 31,288 acres.

THE SEVENTH AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS

THE seventh American Scientific Congress will be held in Mexico City from February 5 to 19, 1932, under the presidency of Dr. Alfonso Prunada, rector of the National University.

In addition to the opening and closing ceremonies and such other general sessions as may be arranged, the congress will meet in the following twelve sections: Physical and Mathematical Sciences, General and Applied Geology, Engineering, Industrial Chemistry, Biology, Scientific Agriculture, Medicine, Hygiene and Public Health, Anthropological and Historical Sciences, Juridical Sciences, Social and Economic Sciences and Education.

The official languages of the congress will be: Spanish, French, English and Portuguese. The papers presented to the congress may touch on all matters of scientific interest, as set forth under the headings of the different sections, and may treat the subjects from the point of view of pure science or from that of applied science. Abstracts should be sent to the general secretary, Dr. Pedro de Alba, at an early date, in order that they may be put in type for distribution at the meeting.

The following statement in regard to the history of the congress has been made by the organizing committee:

In 1896, and in order to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of its foundation, the Scientific Association of the Argentine Republic invited the countries of

Latin-America to a Latin-American Scientific Congress, which was held in Buenos Aires from the 10th to the 21st of April, 1898. Following upon this assembly, the second and third of these congresses were held in Montevideo and in Rio de Janeiro, respectively, in 1901 and 1905.

The fourth Latin-American Scientific Congress was held in Santiago de Chile in December, 1908, and owing to a resolution adopted by the Chilean Government, the congress was named First Pan-American Scientific Congress. The second and third congresses under this new denomination were held, respectively, in Washington (1919) and in Lima (December, 1924, to January, 1925).

The congress assembled in Lima determined that the next congress be known as the Seventh American Scientific Congress and appointed San Jose de Costa Rica as the city where it was to be held; owing, however, to various circumstances, the congress could not be held in that city, and accordingly the Board of Directors of the Pan-American Union (formed by the diplomatic representatives of the various nations in Washington) consulted the Mexican Government as to the advisability of holding the congress in Mexico City. The Mexican Government, after consulting the case with the Ministry of Public Education, expressed its approval of the proposal, and thus it was determined that the assembly be held in the City of Mexico in February, 1932.

The organizing committee extends a cordial invitation to all scientific men of America to attend the congress and to take part in its labors. "The sessions will promote the knowledge of the progress made in the various countries of the continent, in order to study and discuss some of the outstanding problems of those nations and will help to set up closer bonds of lasting friendship between the various countries. Mexico awaits enthusiastically the visit of those who will be its guests for a few days, during which both the authorities and the organizing committee will spare no effort to make their stay in the country as agreeable as possible in every way."

All correspondence with reference to the congress should be addressed to: Comision Organizadora Del Septimo Congreso Cientifico Americano, Apartado Postal 517, Mexico, D. F.

AWARD OF THE EDISON MEDAL TO DR. EDWIN W. RICE, JR.

THE Edison Medal for 1931 has been awarded by the American Institute of Electrical Engineers to Dr. Edwin Wilbur Rice, Jr., "for his contributions to the development of electrical systems and apparatus and his encouragement of scientific research in industry."

The Edison Medal was founded by associates and friends of Thomas A. Edison, and is awarded annually for "meritorious achievement in electrical science, electrical engineering, or the electrical arts" by a committee consisting of twenty-four members of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers.