

chester" by Professor R. J. Colony, of Columbia University.

Any one interested in becoming a member of the Westchester Institute of Sciences should apply to the secretary, Westchester Institute of Sciences, of the Westchester County Conservation Association, 8 Martine Avenue, White Plains. Scientific men, science teachers, nature science workers and all persons interested in science or nature are invited to attend the meetings and to join the institute. Nominal dues of one dollar for this season cover membership.

### THE FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

FINAL statistics on the activities of the Field Museum in 1931 indicate that more than 2,240,000 persons benefited directly from the work of the institution during the year. This figure includes the number of visitors to the museum—1,515,540, a total which exceeds by far any previous year's record in the history of the institution—and also more than 727,000 children reached by extra-mural activities of the museum.

The year was the fifth in which the attendance exceeded one million. The increase over the 1930 total of 1,332,799 visitors is 182,741 or approximately 13.5 per cent., and compares with a gain of 164,369 made in 1930 over 1929.

While the total attendance increased so notably, all the gain was in free admissions, the paid admissions decreasing from 160,924 in 1930 to 126,209 in 1931, a development which undoubtedly may be largely attributed to the economic conditions which have prevailed during the past year. The attendance on free days plus the free admissions on pay days granted to members, children, teachers, students, etc., amounted to 1,389,331, or considerably more than the total of free and paid admissions together in 1930. It is estimated that more than one third of the total number of visitors were children.

The additional 727,000 children coming under the influence of the museum's educational work are accounted for as follows: The James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation, in addition to providing programs at the museum itself for thousands of children, reached 227,351 school pupils through lecturers sent out to address them in their classrooms and assembly halls. (The total number reached by all Raymond Foundation activities, including both those inside and outside the museum was 303,693.) In addition, approximately 500,000 children were reached over and over again during the year by means of traveling exhibition cases displayed in all the public and many other schools (with changes of subjects every two weeks) through the Department of the N. W. Harris Public School Extension.

Less directly the museum reached probably millions of other persons by such various means as the circulation of its publications, reports in the newspapers, radio broadcasting, motion picture news reels, etc.

The highest attendance for any single day during 1931 was on May 21, when 51,917 visitors were received in the building. This was exceeded on only two previous days in the museum's history—June 20, 1926, with 54,024 visitors, and May 24, 1929, with 59,843 visitors.

The total attendance for the first ten years of occupancy of the present building (May 2, 1921, to May 1, 1931) was 8,597,409, as compared with a total of 5,839,579 for the more than twenty-five years during which the museum was located in its first building in Jackson Park.

At the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of the museum, held on January 18, Messrs. John P. Wilson and Sewell L. Avery were elected as trustees to fill the vacancies left on the board by the death of R. T. Crane, Jr., and the resignation of William Wrigley, Jr.

For the twenty-fourth time Mr. Stanley Field was reelected President of the Museum. Mr. Field has held this office since January, 1909. All the other officers who served during 1931 were re-elected for 1932.

### THE ENGINEERING SOCIETIES LIBRARY

THE year 1931 was the most active in the history of the Engineering Societies Library, according to the annual report of the director, Mr. Harrison W. Craver. Surpassing all previous records, the library responded to 42,659 requests for technical information, an increase of 2,577 over 1930. Its service extended to practically every country in the world.

A total of 27,943 visitors, 10 per cent. more than in 1930, taxed the seating capacity of the library, indicating that the time is approaching when additional space will be needed. Valuable book collections were acquired, and more than \$50,000 was expended during the year.

The book collection has been inventoried and only 1,267 books and pamphlets could not be found, a remarkably low number to have been lost in fifteen years, Mr. Craver says. While such losses are extremely annoying, they are inevitable when readers have free access to books. Fortunately, none of the missing works is of great value and almost all can be readily replaced. The general condition of the library is reported to be excellent. Through the Professional Engineers Committee on Unemployment, it has been possible to accomplish a large amount of work for which the staff could not spare time from regular duties.

At the beginning of the year, the permanent collection contained 124,539 books, 4,535 pamphlets, 6,290 maps and 4,552 searches, a total of 139,916. During the year 3,410 books, 4,145 pamphlets, 208 maps and 94 searches were added, and 3,680 pamphlets withdrawn. On December 31, 1931, the collection numbered 127,949 books, 5,000 pamphlets, 6,498 maps and 4,646 searches, a total of 144,093.

The loan collection contained 1,215 books at the beginning of the year. Additions were made as they were needed. Thirteen volumes were sold, and some no longer in demand were withdrawn. The duplicate collection now contains about 9,000 volumes. During the year, 3,681 volumes were added, 1,800 were sold and 1,721 presented to other libraries.

Books, pamphlets and maps received during the year numbered 12,134. Of these, 9,834 were gifts, including 237 volumes of the minutes of *Proceedings* of the Institute of Civil Engineers, from the American Society of Civil Engineers; *Proceedings* of the World Engineering Congress, Tokyo, from Mr. George D. Barron; a collection of pamphlets on petroleum, from Mr. F. G. Clapp; a collection of standard works on engineering, from the *Engineering News-Record*; sets of the *Electrical World* and *Power*, from Mr. Andrew Kidd; 243 volumes of the *Annales des Ponts et Chaussées*, from Mr. Ralph Modjeski.

Also, 130 volumes and pamphlets on railroad and public works, from Mr. F. A. Molitor; a collection of treatises upon automotive engineering, from the Society of Automobile Engineers; a collection of Russian periodicals, from the Russian Association of Engineers.

The books acquired included many already in the library. After examination, 7,857 were added to the permanent collection, 150 to the loan collection, and 3,681 were placed in the duplicate collection.

Two hundred and eighty-six maps, 248 searches and 3,943 volumes, representing 5,051 titles, were catalogued. The catalogued material now comprises 6,321 maps, 3,872 searches and 127,949 volumes, or 138,142 items in all. The number of titles or separate works, as distinguished from volumes, is 69,400. The index to the catalogue contains 37,591 subjects and the catalogue contains 450,939 cards.

The periodical index now contains 27,000 references to important articles. More than 13,000 entries were added in 1931.

One hundred and seventeen searches and 242 translations were made during the year. The number of photoprints was 41,614 for 4,585 persons. Inquiries from 5,946 members were answered by telephone and 3,620 others were assisted by mail.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. W. C. MENDENHALL, acting director of the U. S. Geological Survey, after the retirement of Dr. George Otis Smith to become chairman of the Federal Power Commission, has been appointed by President Hoover director of the survey.

DR. W. W. KEEN, emeritus professor of surgery in the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, president of the American Philosophical Society from 1908 to 1917, celebrated his ninety-fifth birthday on January 19.

THE eleventh award of the Faraday Medal has been made to Sir Oliver Lodge by the British Institution of Electrical Engineers. The medal is awarded not more than once a year, irrespective of nationality, for conspicuous service rendered to the advancement of electrical science.

THE Melchett Medal of the British Institute of Fuel for 1931 was presented to Professor William A. Bone, of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, South Kensington, by the president, Sir Hugo Hirst, at the Institution of Electrical Engineers, on February 1. After the presentation Professor Bone delivered the Melchett Lecture, his subject being "A Cen-

tury of Fuel Economy." Immediately afterwards Professor Bone was the guest of honor at a dinner given by the institute.

DR. ALEXANDER PETRUNKEVITCH, professor of zoology at Yale University, has been elected an honorary member of the Entomological Society of Belgium.

DR. BERTHOLD LAUFER, curator of anthropology at the Field Museum of Natural History, was elected president of the History of Science Society for the year 1932 at the meeting held in Minneapolis on December 29.

MR. HARRY A. KIDDER, superintendent of motive power of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company, has been elected president for 1932 of the United Engineering Trustees, joint agency of the four Founder Engineering Societies.

DR. B. S. PICKETT, head of the horticultural department of the Iowa State College, was elected president of the American Pomological Society at the recent meeting in Columbus, Ohio, on February 3.

DR. JAMES S. STEVENS, for forty-one years professor of physics at the University of Maine and for