

DR. E. H. GRIFFITHS, physicist and formerly principal and professor of experimental philosophy at the University College of South Wales, died at Cambridge on March 3, at the age of eighty years.

THE death is announced on February 29 at the age of eighty-one years of Dr. George Claridge Druce, curator of the Fielding Herbarium of the University of Oxford.

DR. ADAM SCHWAPPACH, formerly director of the Eberswalde Forest Experiment Station at Eberswalde, Germany, died on February 9, at the age of eighty-one years.

PROFESSOR A. OPPERMAN, director of the Danish Forest Experiment Station at Springforbi, Denmark, died on November 15, at the age of seventy-two years.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### INVESTIGATIONS OF LOCUSTS

THE French Committee for Locust Research, consisting of entomologists and chiefs of plant protection services in all the French African Colonies, has agreed to recognize the Imperial Institute of Entomology in London, according to the *London Times*, as the international center for the collection of data on the appearance and movements of locust swarms. This decision follows on the locust conference which was held recently in Rome to discuss methods of international cooperation in locust research, which was attended by British, French and Italian representatives. The Italian delegates agreed to recognize the Imperial Institute of Entomology as the international center for research, but the French delegates were unable to commit themselves without referring the matter to their locust research committee, which has now endorsed the decision of the Rome meeting.

As a result of this resolution, the Imperial Institute of Entomology will in future receive automatically all the information on locusts available in the French African possessions. This is being regularly transmitted by local authorities to the Algiers Regional Station. French entomologists will also cooperate in the locust investigations in the Timbuctoo area, which British entomologists from Nigeria hope to undertake. This area is strongly suspected to be one of the original sources of the present locust outbreak in Africa.

A general scheme of locust research, which aims at discovering the locusts' permanent breeding areas, is now in operation and is directed from the Imperial Institute of Entomology. This is financed partly by the British African Colonies and partly by the Empire Marketing Board, but, owing to the need for economy, the funds available have recently been reduced by half. Two locust research officers have been appointed. One is now in Uganda advising the government on problems of locust control, and particularly on the failure of poison bait. The other is studying the conditions under which locusts are breeding in the Sudan. Information on the movements of locusts is now being received from 16 empire and 25 foreign countries by the Imperial Institute of Entomology and analyzed there in order to trace the origin of locust swarms, the routes of their invasions, and the probable causes of the outbreaks.

### THE FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

THE annual report has appeared of Mr. Stephen C. Sims, director of the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. He states that despite the economic depression, which naturally has had serious effect upon the museum's finances as upon those of practically all similar institutions, so far as the public is concerned, the museum's services have been maintained with practically no curtailment.

All forms of educational work for both children and adults, such as the public lectures on science and travel, guide-lecture tours, etc., have been carried on as usual. The activities of the unit of the museum organization known as the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation, consisting of entertainments for children, extension lectures in the schools, and other forms of direct contact work between museum instructors and more than 300,000 children, have been increased. Likewise the circulation of some 1,300 traveling exhibits in about 400 schools has been continued without interruption.

Work on the installation of new exhibits and the reinstallation of older exhibits proceeded as usual. The scope of expeditions, however, was reduced and it was in this branch of activity that a large part of the necessary economies were effected. However there were sixteen expeditions in operation, both in America and foreign countries, though most of these were on a smaller scale than those of previous years.

Details of contributions of both funds and exhibition material and lists of the institution's 5,341 members are contained in the report.

The number of visitors during 1931 was 1,515,540, exceeding all previous records. Adding the numbers of children reached by activities conducted outside the museum by the Raymond Foundation and the Harris Extension, the total number of persons directly reached by the museum's educational influence