officer had held forth in great detail. "Sir," said the Iron Duke, "your information is too great for your understanding"—a cogent comment.

One word in closing: Martin brought to us the concept of biology, and the idea of special laboratories for physiology. The event has had far-reaching effects. It led to the founding of the Physiological Society and is the reason why, to-day, we are a Federation of Societies for Experimental Biology—ever expanding.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OLD SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM

THIS year is the seventy-fifth anniversary of the opening of the old South Kensington Museum, and arrangements are being made, according to the London *Times*, in the Science Museum, which contains many of the original objects assembled in 1857, for a comparative exhibition illustrating the development which has since taken place in inventions. The original South Kensington Museum (in which the nucleus of the present Victoria and Albert Museum was also included) was founded as a result of the second report of the Royal Commissioners of the Exhibition of 1851.

The entrance hall of the present Science Museum and Gallery I, which adjoins it, were being cleared during the week-end in preparation for the anniversary exhibition, which will be open to the public on July 2. The exhibition will select the terminal points in a few branches of science which were at a primitive stage during the fifties and sixties. A model of an omnibus of the 1850's and locomotive models of the next decade will be placed beside models of a modern London omnibus and of one of the latest L. M. S. locomotives.

In many of the galleries upstairs parts of the permanent exhibition will be rearranged and relabeled for the anniversary, and a space has already been cleared in the Chemistry Gallery for illustrating the range of colors and fabrics now available to the artificial dye industry. Some of the largest British firms of chemists and textile manufacturers are lending exhibits for this portion of the exhibition. It is also intended to illustrate the part taken by the 1851 commissioners in founding the museum and fostering it since that time. The Great Exhibition in Hyde Park, and the development of the site south of the Park into the Museum and College area of South Kensington will be seen in a series of water-colors and plans.

The experimental apparatus used at University College, Gower-street, by the late Sir William Ramsay, has been transferred on indefinite loan from the college to the Science Museum, where it is now partly arranged for view. The exhibits now to be seen include the blow-pipe with which Ramsay himself made most of the apparatus connected with his discoveries of rare gases.

Some new additions have also been made to the ship-model collection in the museum. A model of a Handley Page "Hannibal" type air liner has been presented by Imperial Airways, while the Sudan Government have given a primitive smith's forge of the type used at the present time by the natives of the Jur tribe, and used with some variations in Ancient Egypt some 35 centuries ago.

The museum workshops have reconstructed a Roman pertica, or 10 ft. measuring rod. A series of the metal caps and ends of such surveyors' rods were discovered at Pompeii in 1912 by Cav. M. Della Corte, and replicas of these have been used in the museum.

SMITHSONIAN EXPEDITIONS

TWENTY-FIVE scientific expeditions were sent out by the Smithsonian Institution during the past year. They are described in detail in the annual Smithsonian exploration reports recently issued for distribution.

A. F. Moore, of the staff of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, spent months on barren peaks of African mountains in futile search for a satisfactory Old World site for a solar radiation station. He sought a high desert altitude with, so far as possible, a cloudless, dustless atmosphere. For more than a month he made daily observations on a high peak on Fogo Island in the Cape Verde group. Although generally cloudless, this mountain proved to be surmounted nearly all the time by a high, thick blanket of haze which seems to rise from the Sahara desert.

Disappointed here, Mr. Moore went on to Southwest Africa where, sometimes for weeks at a time, he conducted observations on four mountain peaks and made an unsuccessful effort to scale a fifth. None proved entirely satisfactory.

More than 600 specimens of fossil animals, mostly fragmentary, were collected under the direction of Dr. Charles W. Gilmore in Montana and Wyoming. It is anticipated that many new forms of animal life will be revealed when a systematic study is made. Material of interest included a partial skeleton of a large, flesh-eating mammal, the pachyaena; three partial skeletons of the coryphodon, a rhinoceros-like animal, and six more or less complete skulls of ancient crocodiles. More than 2,500 fossil specimens were se-