SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

HUMAN REMAINS DISCOVERED BY THE BRITISH EAST AFRICAN EXPEDITION

A CONFERENCE was called by the Royal Anthropological Institute on March 18 and 19 to discuss the early human remains recently discovered by the East African Expedition of Dr. L. S. B. Leakey, and to examine the material which is now assembled in Cambridge. *Nature* reports that after hearing Dr. Leakey's exposition of his discoveries, and a general discussion of questions arising therefrom, the conference appointed committees to report, respectively, on the geological, paleontological, anatomical and archeological evidence.

The committee on paleontology reported that Kanam East and Kanam West exhibit differences only in the relative numbers of the fossils of different groups. With the human jaw at Kanam West were found close relatives of the two types of rhinoceros still living in the region, a small hippopotamus, a pig, an antelope, fragments of mastodon, two teeth of a very large deinotherium and remains of *Trionyx*. In Kanam East the collection consists chiefly of mastodon with a primitive elephant, deinotherium, and a few specimens of hippopotamus, rhinoceros, horse and a young monkey.

The fossils from Kanjera have a later aspect. One elephant has dental plates as deep as those of *E. antiquus*, and all the remains of elephant are of Asiatic or European type. At least two antelopes, *Hylæochœrus*, *Phacochœrus*, and a large pig distinct from that of Kanam West, have a very modern appearance. A baboon is remarkable for its comparatively short face. One equine upper molar approaches *Hipparion*, if it does not actually belong to that genus. Typical *Equus* also occurs. Fragments of mastodon, rhinoceros, a giraffoid, hippopotamus and a carnivore have also been found.

The committee thinks that the Kanam deposit should be referred to the Lower Pleistocene, in which the deinotherium and mastodon are survivals from the Upper Pliocene. It also thinks that the Kanjera fauna can not be later than the Middle Pleistocene.

The conference, according to *Nature*, after detailed discussion and after receiving supplementary information furnished by Dr. Leakey and Mr. McInnes as to the circumstances of their discoveries, accepted the reports; congratulated Dr. Leakey on the exceptional significance of his discoveries, and expressed the hope that he may be enabled to undertake further researches, seeing that there is no field of archeological inquiry which offers greater prospects for the future. It especially urged the early organization of another expedition. The following were present and concurred in the above conclusions: Sir Arthur Smith Woodward (*chairman*), A. L. Armstrong, H. Balfour, Miss D. M. A. Bate, P. G. H. Boswell, M. C. Burkitt, V. G. Childe, L. C. G. Clarke, W. L. H. Duckworth, H. J. Fleure, C. Forster Cooper, V. E. Fuchs, A. C. Haddon, A. T. Hopwood, O. T. Jones, Sir Albert Kitson, L. S. B. Leakey, D. McInnes, E. H. Minns, J. Reid Moir, J. L. Myres, T. G. Mollison, F. Oswald, K. S. Sandford, R. A. Smith, W. J. Sollas, J. D. Solomon, Miss M. L. Tildesley and D. M. S. Watson.

THE MORRIS ARBORETUM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

THE Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania will share in a collection of more than 30,000 mounted botanical specimens from eastern Asia as a result of its participation in a botanical expedition which has been at work there under the direction of Dr. Joseph F. Rock, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

According to Dr. Rodney H. True, professor of botany at the university and director of the arboretum, in addition, the seed of several hundred varieties of Oriental plants, many of which offer possibilities of reproduction in this country, will also come to the arboretum from the Rock expedition.

Of the collection made by Dr. Rock, who has been agricultural explorer in the office of foreign plant introduction of the Department of Agriculture since 1920, only about one third has thus far been classified.

These classified specimens, which include more than five hundred rhododendrons, one hundred and fifty primulas, and many varieties of lilies, magnolias and the poppy-like mecanopsis, were found near the headwaters of the Irrawaddy River, in the province of Tsurong west of the Kaaker range, along the upper Salween River, and in other districts chiefly in southeastern Tibet. The remaining two thirds of the specimens, as yet unclassified, have been collected in a wide area which includes in general the region between the Yangtze and Mekong Rivers and a section north of Muli. This latter section hitherto had been untouched in botanical explorations.

In addition to the Morris Arboretum, the shareholders in Dr. Rock's expedition include the Arnold Arboretum, of Boston; the New York Botanical Garden; the Edinburgh Botanical Garden; H. D. MacLaren, of Bodnant, Wales; the Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Illinois, and the University of California.

The material collected is being sent to the University of California where it is being assembled and

classified for future distribution to all the shareholders in the expedition.

According to Dr. True, the participation of the Morris Arboretum in the Rock expedition marks the first step in the arboretum's program for the collection of rare botanical specimens from all parts of the world. Although the arboretum already has a wide representation of Oriental plants, its herbarium will be greatly enriched by the mounted specimens from Tibet. It is expected that the seeds from the Rock expedition will enable the arboretum to grow many varieties of Oriental plants.

DEDICATION OF THE GEORGE EASTMAN RESEARCH LABORATORIES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

THE George Eastman Research Laboratories of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology will be dedicated on Monday, May 1.

The new building, which takes its place in the main educational group, will be devoted to advanced training and research in physics and chemistry, and many former students and members of the faculty in these fields will return for the dedication. It was built from a fund originally provided by the late George Eastman for new buildings, and was completed last autumn. The laboratory offers the most advanced facilities for fundamental study and teaching.

The ceremonies will open with a meeting in the large lecture room of the laboratories in the morning, when the guests and official delegates will be welcomed in an address by President Karl T. Compton. Dr. Harry M. Goodwin, dean of the Graduate School, will speak on "The Graduate School," and Professor Frederick G. Keyes, head of the department of chemistry, will discuss "Chemistry at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology," tracing the development of advances in this field at the institute since its beginning. "Physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology" will be the subject of an address by Professor John C. Slater, head of the department of physics. The meeting will be followed by an inspection of the laboratories and special exhibits.

After a buffet luncheon in the Walker Memorial Building, the delegates will attend a meeting at which Dr. Arthur H. Compton, of the University of Chicago, will contribute a paper entitled "Cosmic Rays," and Professor Charles A. Kraus, of Brown University, will speak on "Thirty Years of Physical Chemistry."

After the meeting, the inspection of laboratories and exhibits will be resumed, to be followed by a tea in the Forris Jewett Moore Room late in the afternoon. At 6:30 in the evening the delegates will attend a dinner in Walker Memorial. The ceremonies will close with a reception by President Compton and the staff of the George Eastman Research Laboratories.

As a preliminary to the dedication of the new building, the Northeastern Section of the American Chemical Society, with members of various other New England sections as its guests, will meet in the new building on Saturday afternoon and evening, April 29. Dr. Gilbert N. Lewis, dean of the College of Chemistry at the University of California, a former member of the faculty, will make an address at the afternoon meeting on "The Preparation and Properties of Pure Hydrogen Isotope." At the dinner in the evening, Professor Ernest H. Huntress, of the department of chemistry, will perform a number of unusual experiments in chemistry.

THE MINNESOTA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

LAST October there were held in the Twin Cities several meetings with a view to organizing a Minnesota Academy of Science. Formal organization was finally completed at a meeting held on November 18. The officers elected and appointed were:

President, Wm. A. Riley, University of Minnesota, St. Paul.
Vice-president, H. E. Stork, Carleton College, Northfield.
Secretary-Treasurer, D. E. Minnich, University of Minnesota.
Councilors, George Friedrichs, State Teachers College, St. Cloud; Richard U. Jones, Macalester College, St. Paul; Reverend Wendel Luetmer, St. John's University, Collegeville; E. T. Tufte, St. Olaf College, Northfield.

On April 15, the first annual meeting of the academy was held in the Zoology Building at the University of Minnesota. At a morning and an afternoon session eighteen papers were read. The papers covered a wide variety of fields, including biology, chemistry, geology and astronomy. The noonday luncheon was the occasion of two addresses: one by Dr. L. M. Gould, of Carleton College, on "Antarctic Glaciation," and one by Dr. A. E. Jenks, University of Minnesota, on "Anthropologic Problems of Special Interest in Minnesota." Forty-nine new active members and five new associate members were elected to the academy.

The following officers were elected for the coming year:

President, H. E. Stork, Carleton College, Northfield.
Vice-president, T. B. Magath, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota.
Secretary-Treasurer, H. K. Wilson, University of Minnesota, St. Paul.
Councilors, George Friedrichs, State Teachers College, St. Cloud; Richard U. Jones, Macalester College, St.