

the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism of the Carnegie Institution. One of these has been actually used for experiments on atomic disintegration and the other instrument, a larger one developing upwards of 2,000,000 volts, is awaiting a suitable housing, now under construction, for its satisfactory operation. Dr. Tuve in Washington, Dr. Coolidge, of the General Electric Company, and Dr. Slack, of the Westinghouse Company, all of whom have built and experimented with Van de Graaff generators subsequent to the demonstration of Van de Graaff's first air-operated instrument in the summer of 1931, have been very helpful in reporting their experiences with the generators.

In conclusion it may fairly be said that this new type of generator as an electrical instrument has already been highly successful and shows promise of very considerable further development. It remains

to be seen whether the necessity which was the mother of this invention—namely, the desire for high speed particles for the study of atomic nuclei—will lead to important new knowledge of atomic structure with the aid of this device. Several good men are beginning work on the application of these voltages to nuclear disintegration, and it will not be long before some indications, at any rate, may be obtained as to the significance of the new developments in high voltage technique.

Whether or not the apparatus will be successful in opening up new fields of atomic investigation, it has already opened up the possibility for electrical investigations and possible practical applications of electricity in a new voltage range, and it will be surprising indeed if there are not some developments of scientific and practical significance which will eventually emerge from this new field of activity.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM

IN a statement issued on July 17 Robert Fechner, director of the Emergency Conservation Work, described the work being performed in the 102 camps now in operation. Seventy-four of the President's conservation camps are on state parks in nineteen states; eleven are on county parks in four states; eleven are on metropolitan sections of city park systems, and seven are on miscellaneous federal and state owned areas in two states—all under the supervision of the National Park Service.

In addition to purely forest protection work—and some of the finest forests in America are found in state parks—many miles of foot trails and bridle trails are being constructed; safe water supply and sewage disposal systems are being installed; picnic and camp grounds built and shelter structures erected; small recreation lakes impounded, as well as a great variety of other work that will add immensely to the usefulness of the areas.

The President, early in May, authorized an extensive work program for the state parks and later, by executive order, approved the extension of conservation work to county parks and to metropolitan sections of city parks. In the state parks the types of work authorized are numerous, and are necessary to safeguard the scenic resources of the parks under the heavy use to which most of them are subjected.

Supervision of Emergency Conservation Work in state, county and metropolitan parks was placed with the National Park Service because of the similarity of many of their problems and undertakings with those in the national parks. In addition, the federal agency has maintained close touch with state park

developments during the past fourteen years. Until the present, however, there has been no official connection between the National Park Service and the state park authorities. Supervision of these camps, therefore, has required the establishment of a small new field organization.

General direction of park emergency conservation work has been assigned to the branch of planning, National Park Service, headed by Conrad L. Wirth, assistant director. With him as supervisor is Herbert Evison, for the past four and a half years executive secretary of the National Conference on State Parks.

The entire United States has been divided into four districts, under four district officers, each of whom is experienced in state park work. Under their immediate direction is a field force of sixteen inspectors, each in charge of a group of from five to seven camps. These men, of whom all are graduate engineers or landscape architects, help to plan the work and keep in close touch with it through all its stages.

In some states, even where there are extensive and valuable holdings, this is the first time that technically trained men have been available for state park work. In each camp the services of the inspectors are supplemented by four landscape foremen, many of whom are experienced landscape architects. These highly qualified men are charged with responsibility for upholding generally accepted state park standards in the constructive work being performed in the parks.

THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE IN AID OF DISPLACED GERMAN SCHOLARS

THERE has been formed an Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced German Scholars, with President Livingston Farrand as *chairman* and Dr. Stephen