

000 school lives each year and through this contact gain the confidence and eventually the warm friendship of the rulers of the city and state; second, knowing that the intelligent class includes not only money-getters but men and women of imagination and vision, we have sent out expeditions—on sea and land, on the rivers, plains, mountains and deserts of every continent, to the Arctic and the Antarctic—under young and dauntless explorers who have the art not only of discovery but of writing interestingly about their discoveries, thus making it possible for us to popularize the expeditions in our many books, magazine articles and newspapers and arouse a once listless and indifferent public to the deep fascination of science.

These are our secrets, now used by many of our sister institutions in America, and we hand them all over to you, without reserve.

However, do not imagine for one moment that we lose our perspective; we spend far more money on scientific research and publication than we do on the popularization of knowledge, and we take far more pride and satisfaction in scientific cooperation and interchange of new and sound ideas than we do in

any of the more obvious and visible exhibits and displays in which art and science are combined.

In closing, let me say that the American Museum is indebted beyond measure to the cordial and friendly cooperation not only of the scientists but of the governments that are represented in this congress. Among our friends and allies are enrolled all the South American countries, all the governments of the great continent of Africa, most of the countries and institutions of Asia, all the institutions of Europe, of Great Britain, Canada and Australia. From the old institutions of Europe we received our baptism and inspiration, and we can never repay our indebtedness to them.

Of all the American institutions, that which has stood foremost in cordial relation with the American Museum is the United States Geological Survey, with which we have been cooperating for the past thirty-five years and which published without stint our great monograph on the titanotheres. Of the many positions I have the honor to hold in this country there is none I cherish more highly than the title conferred upon me in the year 1924, namely, Senior Geologist of the United States Geological Survey.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### IMPERIAL BRITISH STANDARD MEASURES

*Nature* states that the statutory decennial comparisons of the Imperial standards of length and mass with their parliamentary copies became due in 1932. On the last occasion, in 1922, they were carried out at the British Standards Department of the Board of Trade under the supervision of Mr. J. E. Sears, Jr., the superintendent of the Metrology Department of the Laboratory, who was at that time acting also as deputy warden of the standards. By a subsequent agreement between the Board of Trade and the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, it was arranged that the National Physical Laboratory should in future undertake the whole of these comparisons on behalf of the board. The present series of comparisons is accordingly being carried out at the laboratory. The primary object of the comparisons is the verification of the parliamentary copies of the Imperial Standard Pound and Yard, any one of which could be used to replace the corresponding imperial standard should it suffer loss or destruction. There are for each standard five parliamentary copies; one is immured in Westminster Palace, and one each of the others is in the custody of the Royal Society, the Mint, Greenwich Observatory and the Standards Department.

In addition to this work, a redetermination of the relationship between the pound and the kilogram will

shortly be made, following the scheme which was adopted for the first time in 1922 to 1923. The International Bureau of Weights and Measures, Sèvres, has been invited to undertake a share of the comparisons in this part of the program. Finally, the principal reference standard pounds at the National Physical Laboratory, together with an auxiliary standard pound belonging to the Board of Trade, will be verified by comparison with one or more of the parliamentary copies of the pound; a corresponding verification of kilogram standards from the laboratory and the Board of Trade will also be made. The weighings are being made on a new balance which has recently been constructed at the laboratory for precision weighings of the highest accuracy. This balance is contained in an inner vault, and all its controls are operated from outside, so that the observer does not enter the vault during any one series of weighings. The indications of the balance are recorded optically on a scale placed some seven meters away.

### FEDERAL FUNDS FOR MEDICAL CARE

RULES governing the expenditure of federal funds for medical, nursing and dental care of sick and destitute unemployed persons who are "on relief" have been announced by Harry L. Hopkins, federal emergency relief administrator.

The regulations seek to improve conditions of

service for the unemployed, the professions and the relief officials in the localities under the immediate supervision of which the needy sick are cared for.

The use of federal relief money for medical care is limited to service in the home or office call. Federal funds can not be used to pay hospital bills or for treatment in nursing homes or clinics. Office service for ambulatory patients is permitted, on the understanding that it shall not supplant the services of clinics already provided in the community.

Standard agreements between relief officials and physicians provide for attendance of not more than two weeks or ten visits in cases of acute illness and not more than one visit a week for a period not exceeding two or three months. Cases requiring more protracted calls of greater frequency will be subject to reinvestigation by the local emergency relief administration.

In obstetrical cases, provision is made for prenatal and postnatal care, and exercise of "due caution" that undue risk be not involved to patients for whom hospital care may be imperative. Other and special cases and medical and nursing care, not included in the standard procedure, may be made the subject of special agreements in harmony with the general policy laid down by the administration.

The "essence of such a policy" is said to be, on the part of the relief administration, recognition of the traditional family and family-physician, physician-nurse and dentist-patient relationship in the authorization of medical nursing and emergency dental care of indigent persons in their homes, and agreement by the physician, nurse and dentist to "furnish the same type of service as would be rendered to a private patient, at a minimum consistent with good professional judgment, and an agreed rate which makes due allowance for conservation of relief funds."

"The common aim," it is stated, "should be the provision of good medical service at a low cost—to the mutual benefit of indigent patient, physician, nurse, dentist and taxpayer."

State and local medical, nursing, dental and pharmaceutical organizations will be asked to designate advisory committees to work with the relief executives in the states and communities in formulating more adequate and uniform policies.

### THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

THE Botanical Garden will lose twenty-five of its "most efficient workers" at the end of this month, when the activities of the Emergency Unemployment Relief Committee's Women's Work Bureau cease, according to a statement made by Dr. Elmer D. Merrill,

director of the garden. Since November, 1931, groups of 6 to 132 women have been working daily in the laboratory, library, herbarium, offices and conservatory at salaries of \$12 and \$15 a week paid by the relief committee.

Almost two years ago Dr. Merrill requested Miss Ollie A. Randall, head of the work bureau, to supply the garden with "a half dozen women workers with no special qualifications," as an experiment. The six were set to work mounting botanical specimens and clerking in the reference library.

As a result the staff of women was increased gradually to ninety, ranging in age from twenty to fifty years and in occupations from telephone operators to reporters. When the committee's funds were low in the summer of 1932, the number of workers dropped to twenty, but last winter it was increased to 132 at one time. Lack of funds resulted in the present small staff.

The work done varied considerably. At one time there were six artists working on black and white colored sketches of specimens. Plates were made from these sketches later, and some were used to illustrate botanical articles.

The most important work accomplished, according to Dr. Merrill, "was putting the library into the herbarium." Four hundred thousand typed original descriptions and photographs of types of flora were pasted on folders containing dried specimens of the flora.

A card catalogue containing the names of all species of flora found in the Polynesian Islands was completed, giving the titles and authors of articles about each species, with the publications in which they appeared. More than 50,000 cards are in this catalogue and duplicates are in the Bishop Museum at Honolulu.

An index of all botanical literature pertaining to flora found in eastern Asia has also been completed. A page-by-page survey of 700 sets of periodicals, some of them containing more than 150 volumes each, was necessary to complete this index, as well as translations of many titles from Russian, Latvian, Japanese, Chinese and Polish periodicals. There are now about 17,000 cards, containing the titles, names of authors and publications and, in the case of foreign-language articles, summaries of all articles published on Oriental flora.

Two million specimens in the herbarium, formerly classified only by species in geographical units, were reorganized; 300,000 other species were labeled and filed. In addition, public exhibitions in the administration building, which "have been gathering dust and mold for twenty-five years," have been cleaned and polished.