

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### SURVEY OF THE MUSEUMS AND ART GALLERIES OF GREAT BRITAIN

A CORRESPONDENT of *The Christian Science Monitor* writes from London that, for the first time, the art resources of the British Empire have been catalogued. This has been accomplished through a survey of museums and art galleries which has been in progress since 1931 and which has just appeared in the form of a final report. The work has been carried on with the aid of a gift of £8,000 from the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

In the opinion of the secretary of the survey, S. F. Markham, the five most progressive museums in the entire empire, "taking into account building, finances, equipment, staff, technique, as well as wealth of collections," are the Science Museum, London; the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto; the Auckland War Memorial Museum, New Zealand; the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, and the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh. On the other hand, the places of considerable population where art gallery and museum provision is of least adequacy and efficiency are Chesterfield, Croydon, Willesden, South Shields and Wigan (all England); Winnipeg, Manitoba; London, Ontario, and Newcastle, Australia.

New Zealand appears to be one of the most progressive sections of the empire in its enthusiasm for promoting the welfare of its galleries and museums. While South Africa and Canada spend no more than 1½d. a head a year on their art resources, New Zealand expends 3½d. a head. Throughout the empire the total annual expenditure on art galleries and museums is £1,700,000. Great Britain's annual expenditure a head is 7½d. The progressive attitude displayed in cultural matters by New Zealand is ascribed to the determination of the people not to be satisfied with the second-rate. Its high position is further indicated in the statistics relating to the provision made by individual towns and cities for art accommodation.

The finest collections are naturally to be found in London and in the national galleries in the British Isles. But apart from these it is thought that the best collection is that of the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, which not only has an admirable selection of the works of Canadian artists, but also a world-famous collection of Chinese antiquities. There are good collections at Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide and Ottawa.

The need is emphasized for closer cooperation between the museums and galleries of the various parts of the empire. The suggestion is being made that, by an alteration in the present state of the law, the National Gallery, London, might radically assist the Dominions in their cultural efforts.

### THE ARBORETUM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

GEORGE WILLIAM LONGENECKER, professor of horticulture at the University of Wisconsin, has been appointed executive director of the arboretum by the board of regents.

The arboretum, one of a half dozen or so of its kind in the entire country, was established last fall and at present contains 430 acres of land on the outskirts of Madison, bordering Lake Wingra. The land has been obtained by gift or purchase, with funds made available from the Tripp estate. No state-appropriated funds whatever have been used on the project.

Aldo Leopold, widely known Wisconsin conservationist, has been appointed professor of wild life management and research director. Funds for the development of the arboretum as an outdoor experimental laboratory, in which research work on various problems facing state reforestation and wild life propagation and conservation work can be carried on by the university, were made possible by a grant of \$8,000 by the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation.

Professor Longenecker has been connected with the university for seven years. When development of the arboretum was started last summer, he superintended the planting of about 13,000 Norway and white pines and about 2,000 white spruce trees. He also had charge of the building of a roadway through the large tract of land, and directed the rock work around the springs in the area.

The arboretum gives the university and the state an opportunity for experimentation in reforestation and in the propagation of wild life, in the opinion of members of the University Arboretum Committee, under whose direction the development of the land for the best interests of the people of the state is carried out.

The committee, composed of many university and state officials and private citizens, was appointed by President Glenn Frank last fall. E. M. Gilbert, professor of botany, is chairman.

### ATTENDANCE AT THE FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

MORE than three million persons have visited the Field Museum of Natural History during 1933 to date, making an attendance record, according to a statement made by Stephen C. Simms, director of the museum, which exceeds any attained by a museum in the United States and probably exceeding the highest figure reached by such an institution. The best available comparative statistics indicate that the previous highest attendance for any similar institution was