

of material deposited and the character of the deposits in the estuary of the River Mersey and in Liverpool Bay are affected by the large quantities of sewage discharged into the estuary of adjacent towns. In response to a request from the Merseyside local authorities, the Mersey Docks and Harbor Board, and other interested bodies, a comprehensive investigation of the subject has been undertaken.

### THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

STILL operating on a very much curtailed budget, necessitated by depression, the Field Museum of Natural History nevertheless was able to maintain during 1934 full activity so far as services to the public are concerned, according to the annual report of Dr. Stephen C. Simms, director of the museum.

Attendance at the museum was more than 1,985,000 persons. While this was a decline of about 1,284,000 from the 3,269,390 visitors received during 1933, it was nevertheless the second highest year's attendance in the history of the museum, and the reduction from the 1933 peak was a natural expectation in view of the smaller attendance at the second year's Century of Progress Exposition. Of the visitors in 1934, only about 99,000, or approximately 5 per cent., paid the 25-cent admission fee charged on certain days; all the rest, approximately 95 per cent., either went on the days when admission is free, or belonged to classifications such as children, teachers and students, who are admitted free on all days.

The scientific expeditions of the museum had to be kept to a minimum. The Straus West African Expedition of Field Museum, sponsored by Mrs. Oscar Straus, of New York, collected zoological material in Senegal, the French Sudan, Nigeria and Angola (Portuguese West Africa). The Leon Mandel Guatemala Expedition, sponsored by Leon Mandel, of Chicago, concluded its work of making comprehensive collections of characteristic Central American fauna. Research on sites of ancient Maya civilization was conducted by an expedition jointly sponsored by the Carnegie Institution of Washington, D. C., and Field Museum. The Field Museum Archeological Expedition to the Southwest, financed by the Julius and Augusta N. Rosenwald Fund of the museum, carried on its fourth season of operations on the Lowry ruin, prehistoric Indian site in Colorado. An anthropometric survey of Kurd, Arab and Beduin populations was made by the Anthropological Expedition to the Near East sponsored by Marshall Field, of New York and Chicago. The Joint Botanical Project of the Rockefeller Foundation and Field Museum was in its fifth year of operations in Europe. Paleontological field work was conducted in Nebraska, the Bad Lands of South Dakota and Pennsylvania.

A new hall devoted to domestic animals was opened. It contains a series of sculpture in marble and bronze, one fourth life-size, by the sculptor Herbert Haseltine, of champion horses, beef and dairy animals, sheep and swine of Great Britain. The collection is a gift to the museum from Marshall Field, a member of the board of trustees. Many new habitat groups of wild animals were added to the zoological exhibits. The additions of further sculptures of types of races of mankind by Malvina Hoffman brought the series of nearly 100 figures in Chauncey Keep Memorial Hall practically to completion.

The regular lecture courses in spring and autumn, and the year-around lecture tours for adults, as well as the series of motion picture programs, extension lectures and other activities for children presented by the museum unit known as the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation, were continued as in other years, and were attended by approximately 240,000 persons. The N. W. Harris Public School extension, another separately endowed department of the museum, maintained its service of circulating some 1,300 traveling natural history exhibits which daily reach about 500,000 children in all the public and many private schools of Chicago.

Field Museum Press issued a number of important scientific publications for international circulation, as well as several leaflets in popular style for lay readers.

Two new members were elected to the museum's board of trustees—Joseph N. Field, of Chicago, and Leslie Wheeler, of Lake Forest, Ill. The museum suffered the loss by death of its curator of anthropology, Dr. Berthold Laufer, noted for his research in Oriental subjects. Subsequent to his death, Dr. Paul S. Martin was appointed acting curator in charge of the department.

### OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

A FULL account of the Pittsburgh meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and of the scientific societies associated with it, edited by the permanent secretary, will be published in the issue of SCIENCE for February 1.

Officers of the association were elected as follows:

#### PRESIDENT

Dr. Karl T. Compton, president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

#### VICE-PRESIDENTS AND CHAIRMEN OF THE SECTIONS

*Mathematics*—Dr. T. H. Hildebrandt, University of Michigan.

*Physics*—Dr. John T. Tate, University of Minnesota.

*Chemistry*—Dr. Moses Gomberg, University of Michigan.