

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### CONGRESS FOR PREHISTORIC RESEARCH IN THE FAR EAST

ARRANGEMENTS have been completed for a meeting at Manila of the second Congress for Prehistoric Research in the Far East—officially known as the “Deuxième Congrès des Préhistoriens d’Extreme Orient”—which will be held under the joint auspices of the University of the Philippines and the Bureau of Science, from February 6 to 12.

Governor-General Murphy recently invited the governments of Japan, China, French Indo-China, Siam, Netherlands Indies, Hongkong, the Federated Malay States and British Borneo to send official delegates to the congress. It is understood that the following institutions will also be represented by one or two delegates each:

The Oyama Institute of Prehistory, Tokio; the Universities of Tokyo, Sendai and Kyoto, Japan, and the University of Taihoku, Formosa.

The Geological Survey and the National Research Institute, of China, both at Peking.

The University of Hongkong.

Ecole Française d’Extreme Orient, and the Geological Survey of French Indo-China, both at Hanoi.

The Royal Siamese Institute of Literature, Arts and Archeology, Bangkok.

The Batavia Society of Arts and Sciences, and the Bureau of Anthropology for the Netherlands Indies, Java.

The Bishop Museum of Honolulu, and

The Federated Malay States museums at Taiping and Singapore.

This congress was originally scheduled to be held at Bangkok in January, 1935. Disturbed political conditions in Siam, however, and recent changes in the government there, caused the executive committee of the congress to transfer it to Manila, and to postpone the date until February.

The Philippines will be represented by three delegates at the congress—one from the university, one from the Bureau of Science and one representing American students of Far-Eastern prehistory.

Leading archeologists and students of the ancient history of the Far East, as well as a number of geologists and explorers, have already signified their intention of attending.

Some of the principal features of the tentative program are:

1. Reviews of recent prehistoric and protohistoric research in China, Japan, Formosa, Hongkong and vicinity, French Indo-China, Siam, the Malay Peninsula and the Netherlands Indies, the Philippines and the Pacific Islands; by one delegate from each of these regions. (For the delegates and associate members only.)

2. Three or more open meetings, at which papers of

general interest, relating to recent discoveries in the Far East, will be read.

3. A series of round-table conferences, at which special topics will be taken up by small groups of interested delegates and associate members.

The proceedings of the second congress, and the more important papers read, will be later published—probably in a volume to be issued by the university or the Bureau of Science some time before the end of 1935.

It may further be stated that the congress was an outgrowth of the Pacific Science Congress, and was originally organized in connection with the Java meeting of that congress in 1929–30. The first independent meeting was organized by the Government of French Indo-China, Hanoi, 1932.

H. OTLEY BEYER,

*Chairman, Philippine Committee*

### THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF SOIL SCIENCE

THE third International Congress of Soil Science will be held at Oxford, England, from July 30 to August 7, this year under the presidency of Sir John Russell. The two previous congresses of the series were held in Washington in 1927 and in Leningrad and Moscow in 1930, and were notable for the exceptionally international character of the personnel and the discussions. The congress will meet as a whole in six plenary sessions, at which a general survey of recent advances in every branch of soil science will be made, and it will also work in sections or “Commissions” dealing specifically with soil physics (I), chemistry (II), biology (III), fertility (IV), classification (V) and technology (VI). Three sub-commissions will discuss problems relating to alkali, forest and peat soils, respectively. A 16-day excursion round Great Britain leaving Oxford immediately after the congress, and terminating in Cambridge on August 23 is being arranged for the benefit of members wishing to obtain first-hand knowledge of British agriculture and soils.

Every member of the congress will receive a copy of the official transactions, including the full text of papers read at the plenary sessions, and detailed reports of the discussions at the commission sessions. The cost of the *Transactions* will be included in the Congress fee (£2), payment of which will also entitle members to attend all meetings, receptions, etc., held in connection with the congress. Accommodation during the congress in an Oxford College may be reserved through the organizing committee, or privately in hotels or boarding houses.

Intimation of attendance at the congress should be

sent as soon as possible to the Secretary of the Organizing Committee, G. V. Jacks, Imperial Bureau of Soil Science, Harpenden, England, from whom all further information may be obtained.

### REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

DR. E. D. MERRILL, director of the New York Botanical Garden, pointed out to members of the board of managers at the annual meeting on January 14 that naturalistic planting of tropical subjects in the greenhouses has been one of the important horticultural developments at the New York Botanical Garden during the past year.

The cactus house in Conservatory Range 1, which has been closed to the public for several weeks, will be re-opened this month, with all the plants set out in a desert garden as though they were growing out of doors in their native habitat. Other succulents, which were planted in naturalistic fashion in the adjoining house last year, have grown luxuriantly. In early spring, the collection of bananas and their allies will be on view in a humid, tropic house where they are now being replanted.

Bordered with suitable shrubs, trees and smaller plants from cooler regions of the world, a new rock-bound pool has replaced the old formal pool at the entrance to Conservatory Range 2 on the east side of the grounds. Collections of orchids and begonias, two of the featured types of plants in other parts of this conservatory, have been greatly improved the past year.

In anticipation of a magnificent display of flowers in the new Thompson Memorial Rock Garden, 7,500 bulbs for early spring bloom were planted last fall. These will be seen in addition to hundreds of primulas and other flowers which were first brought into bloom there last spring.

A gift of 450 evergreen trees received from Colonel Robert H. Montgomery has been used largely for new background plantings. In addition, Colonel Montgomery presented 85 species and varieties of evergreens which are now being raised for the garden at the Boyce Thompson Arboretum.

Ornamental trees and shrubs figured largely in a gift of a carload of nursery stock—1,445 items—from the Farr Nursery Company of Pennsylvania. The trees in the natural hemlock forest bordering the Bronx River at the Botanical Garden have been increased by the planting of 300 specimens four to five feet high. Other new plantings include the borders of the park, where work has been done partly in cooperation with the city, which has provided the means for improvements in many parts of the grounds.

A body of women workers from the Emergency Relief Bureau has helped the New York Botanical Gar-

den to build up, in the last few years, one of the largest and most readily accessible collections of herbarium specimens in the world. While two or three other herbaria slightly exceed the New York one in size, none has so efficient a system of references.

The Botanical Garden's herbarium, with 70,000 specimens having been mounted and added to the collections by emergency workers during 1934, now numbers 1,800,000 specimens.

Dr. Merrill also announced that the year's additions to the library bring the number of bound volumes above 44,000, enabling it to hold its place as the largest combined botanical and horticultural library in America.

The course for professional gardeners, inaugurated in 1932 by the New York Botanical Garden, entered its third year last fall with a record enrolment of seventy-two students. Gardening courses for amateurs, courses of study on ferns and trees, and Saturday afternoon lectures given in all but the summer months have been among other educational activities. Scientific work prosecuted during the year has included the study of specific plant diseases and their control, and the breeding of new varieties of day lilies, southern iris and lilies, besides the work on seedless grapes being carried out in cooperation with the Geneva Experiment Station.

Many improvements in buildings and grounds have been initiated with the help of men from the Emergency Relief Bureau. Among other workers from this group in the Museum Building, there have been artists, librarians, technicians, stenographers, typists, clerks, and others, who have been of great assistance to the scientific staff.

An innovation in memberships approved at the meeting is a garden-club membership, by which a group, for an annual fee of \$25, is accorded special privileges offered by the institution.

### FELLOWSHIPS IN MEDICINE OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

FELLOWSHIPS in medicine, administered by the Medical Fellowship Board of the National Research Council, will be available for the year beginning on July 1. These fellowships are open to citizens of the United States and Canada who possess an M.D. or Ph.D. degree. They are intended for recent graduates and not for persons already professionally established.

The fellowships are designed to provide research discipline for men and women who are fitted for research in the medical sciences. At present candidates will be favored who plan to specialize in one of the sciences related to medicine or to approach clinical medicine and surgery through temporary identification with one of these sciences.