

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.