

figures for 1934. Although the visitors to Whipsnade were nearly 45,000 fewer than in the previous year, there were over 38,000 more than in 1933.

In view of this flourishing condition expenditure on several structural additions to the Zoo has been sanctioned. Work has begun on a studio of animal art, part of the cost of which will be met by grants from the London County Council and the Middlesex County Council. A strip of Regent's Park adjoining the gardens has been granted to the society by the First Commissioner of Works, and this is to be utilized for the creation of a special children's zoo. It is hoped that both these new features will be ready during the early summer. A modernization of the middle part of the gardens, including a new elephant and rhinoceros house, is also contemplated, and it is intended that this shall be completed in 1937.

That the health of the animals has been well maintained is shown, according to the *Times*, by the fact that the death rate among mammals was the lowest recorded during the last 10 years. There has been an unusually large number of notable exhibits during the year including an okapi, presented by the King of the Belgians to the (then) Prince of Wales and given by him to the society. Other outstanding additions to the menagerie were West Indian manatees, Komodo dragons and blood-sucking vampire bats.

In scientific research the work of Dr. H. Honigman on the principles underlying the feeding of animals in the gardens and of Dr. S. Zuckerman on social behavior in apes is stated to be of great interest.

A new and more readable edition of the garden guide has been issued. Its form and illustrations are greatly improved. It includes articles by Dr. Julian Huxley, secretary of the society, on animal classification and animal adaptations.

STANDARDS FOR HYDROLOGIC DATA

AGREEMENT on common standards and specifications for hydrologic data arrived at among representatives of different government agencies and prominent hydrologists outside of government service is shown in a 45-page Report of Recommendations recently made public by Harold L. Ickes, chairman of the National Resources Committee. The report was made by a Special Advisory Committee to the Water Resources Committee of the National Resources organization, and brings into agreement the viewpoints of the producer and the user of such data.

The special committee, appointed in April of this year, consisted of Thorndike Saville, *chairman*, professor of hydraulic and sanitary engineering and associate dean, New York University; Donald M. Baker, consulting civil engineer, Los Angeles; H. K. Barrows, professor of civil engineering, Massachusetts Institute

of Technology; J. P. Dean, captain, Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army, New Orleans; Willis R. Gregg, chief of the U. S. Weather Bureau, Washington, D. C.; N. C. Grover, chief hydraulic engineer, U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.; W. W. Horner, consulting civil engineer, St. Louis; Joseph Jacobs, consulting civil engineer, Seattle; Royce J. Tipton, consulting civil engineer, Denver, and Robert E. Horton, of Voorheesville, N. Y., and Adolph Meyer, of Minneapolis, consulting hydrologists, who served as special consultants to the committee. The following statement is made:

The immediate urge and dominant thought governing the preparation of this report have been the provision of dependable hydrologic data by means of work relief projects. The committee has departed somewhat from the strict letter of its instructions, and has ventured to recommend certain procedures affecting the collection and publication of basic data by the regular government agencies. Inasmuch as most of such agencies were represented on the committee, the unanimity of thought as expressed in the recommendations contained in the report is highly gratifying. It is hoped that this study may have indicated a practicable procedure by which ultimate values in water resources may be effectively promoted.

The recommendations relate chiefly to the minimum standards regarded as compatible with the reliability and accuracy necessary for safe and economic design. It is insisted that more enunciation of standards is insufficient to insure satisfactory collection and publication of basic data. The fundamental premise that the technique of producing significant and dependable hydrologic data can not be imparted to inexperienced workers by means of a manual and that it can be developed only under the supervision of experienced technicians, is strongly emphasized.

The recommendations include specifications for personnel and terminology, standards for collection and compilation of data on precipitation, snow surveys, surface waters, ground water, evaporation, quality of water, suggestions with respect to special projects and recommendations for procedure surveys under the Works Progress Administration.

EXPLORATIONS SPONSORED BY THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

THE annual report of explorations of the Smithsonian Institution contains accounts of fifteen expeditions in the United States, Alaska, Canada, Greenland, South and Central America and Asia.

These expeditions resulted in many additions to the Smithsonian collections in natural history, anthropology and geology, which include fossil bones of little-known species of dinosaurs and a complete articulated skeleton of the *Coryphodon*, found in Mon-