

A MEETING in commemoration of the late Dr. W. McKim Marriott was held at the Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, on January 3. The speakers included: Chancellor George R. Throop; Dr. Edwards A. Park, professor of medicine of the Johns

Hopkins University School of Medicine; Dr. Alexis F. Hartmann, professor of pediatrics at Washington University, and Dr. Philip A. Shaffer, professor of biological chemistry and head of the department, Washington University School of Medicine.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BRITISH MINISTRY OF HEALTH

THE annual report of the British Ministry of Health has been recently issued. The year 1935-36 was a period of outstanding health records. The death rate for infants under one year, at 57 per 1,000 births, and deaths from tuberculosis—fewer than 30,000—were the lowest on record. The maternal mortality rate, at 3.93 per 1,000 births, was the lowest since 1924.

According to a summary in the London *Times*, Sir Kingsley Wood, minister of health, said that:

Perhaps the important development in public health was that more and more they were not only seeking to prevent ill-health and disease, but were taking many measures to build up actively good health in the citizens, and adopting a positive policy which promoted directly healthy lives and living. In other words, they were concerned not only with prevention but with building. It was a policy of building up the citizen himself.

During the year over 250,000 expectant mothers had attended ante-natal clinics, and increased use had been made of infant welfare centers. But more must be done in regard to children between one and five years of age. Food was another factor of great importance. Nearly 150,000 samples of food and drugs were analyzed by public analysts during the year. It could be said that adulteration was disappearing, that the food supply was generally free from harmful ingredients, and that the customer was getting what he was entitled to get—good and wholesome food. As well as this, scientific investigation into the nourishment of the population was being carried on by the Advisory Committee on Nutrition.

The collection of family budgets, which is part of the Ministry of Labor's investigations into the cost of living, will provide much useful information about dietaries, but the Advisory Committee desired also that a number of quantitative dietary surveys should be carried out. I have asked local authorities to make these surveys, though the cost will, of course, be borne by the ministry.

A wonderful transformation had been worked in the water position by the £1,000,000 grant, and so far as our great industrial areas were concerned everything was perfectly satisfactory. There was now no danger of drought. Much more provision had been made for open spaces, parks, recreation grounds, playing fields and swimming pools. Loans sanctioned for these purposes during the last 12 months were some £2,300,000, and in addition nearly 250 acres of land for purposes of this kind were presented to the local authorities or to the National Playing Fields Association.

The work of preventing bad health must also be continuously pursued. This was particularly true in connection with housing. Already some 500,000 slum dwellers had gone to better, more decent homes. And every month now between 20,000 and 25,000 other slum dwellers were following them into these better conditions.

Smallpox has now been stamped out in this country. The one case in 1935 was the lowest recorded figure since 1918. They hoped to see more progress made against cancer, which was not yet defeated. Another "weak point in the armor" was maternal mortality, but there had been wonderful improvement in the last few years and steady improvement in the last 12 months.

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

A REPORT of the past year's work of the New York Botanical Garden was presented on January 11 at the annual meeting of the board of managers by Dr. H. A. Gleason, deputy director, who is at present carrying on the work of Dr. Marshall A. Howe, who died on December 24.

According to his report, extensive reconstruction of Conservatory Range No. 1 on the west side of Bronx Park, commenced early this year, covering approximately two acres of ground, where thousands of exotic plants of decorative, botanical and economic interest are kept for public display, makes this conservatory one of the largest public greenhouses in the world. Its reconstruction—which will be carried out in such a way that at no time will the exhibits be sacrificed—will result in more effective showing of the collections.

The beauty of the grounds of the Botanical Garden will also be enhanced by more than a thousand trees and shrubs which were set out during the fall and by 800 young hemlocks which were added to the forest along the Bronx River. In the Thompson Memorial Rock Garden, one of the most frequently visited portions of the grounds, a bog area will be planted with special subjects this year and 7,000 heathers will be added to the heath planting. The new iris garden on the west side of the grounds will bloom for the first time this coming spring. Six thousand plants in 181 varieties comprise the collection.

Each member of the garden will receive, beginning this year, a subscription to *Addisonia*, which contains colored plates and descriptions of unusual plants. This will be in addition to the monthly *Journal* and the other privileges of membership.

A memorial resolution to the late Dr. Marshall A. Howe, director, was adopted by the board before the close of the meeting, as well as a resolution honoring Dr. Lewis Rutherford Morris, a member of the board who died toward the end of the year.

Henry W. De Forest, who has been president of the garden since 1928, was reelected, and Henry De Forest Baldwin was reelected vice-president.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

IN the annual report for 1936 of Dr. Charles G. Abbot, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, which has now appeared, he points out that results have been especially encouraging in two fields—the correlation of solar radiation with the weather and the study of the effects of light on plant growth. One was the apparent proof that short-interval changes of the heat output of the sun, such as run their courses in a few days, are of major influence on the weather for the ensuing two weeks or more. Investigators of the U. S. Weather Bureau have agreed with him, Dr. Abbot reported, that investigation of this effect offers reasonable promise of a method of forecasting some features of the weather for two weeks or more in advance. Progress also was reported by Dr. Abbot in the development of his 23-year-cycle weather hypothesis. While much more work must be done in working out the details, he states that certain large and prolonged features, like the great drought in the Northwest, seem to be clearly predictable. Another development has been the working out of a sensitive and quick-acting spectroscopic method for measuring carbon dioxide in the air. By this method the respiration and carbon dioxide assimilation of a single grain of wheat in its germination is readily observed.

Nearly half a million specimens were added to the collections of the National Museum, mostly as gifts or from Smithsonian expeditions. One of these was the Richard K. Peck collection of ethnological material from the Negritos and Papuans of Dutch New Guinea, the Dyaks of Borneo and the Jivaro of Ecuador. In biology there was an accession of 465 mammals from Asia, Africa and South America, obtained by exchange with the Field Museum of Natural History. In geology a collection of Chilean minerals, including six new varieties, was obtained. The airplane *Winnie Mae*, flown by Post and Gatty around the world, was added to the arts and industries collection.

The Bureau of American Ethnology continued its researches at the recently discovered site of Folsom man in Colorado, the earliest known human settlement in North America. Archeological discoveries were made in Honduras by a joint Smithsonian-Peabody Museum expedition. A culture level was found that

is apparently ancestral to that of the Maya. Among ethnological investigations were studies of the Timucua and the Indians of Hudson's Bay, Canada, the Mission Indians of California, the Shoshone, Bannock and Gosiute of Utah, Nevada and Idaho and the Iroquois of Canada.

The Smithsonian's International Exchange Service acts as the official United States agency for the exchange of scientific publications with foreign countries. During the past year this exchange involved the handling of over half a million packages.

At the National Zoological Park the outstanding event of the year was the beginning of construction of three new buildings under a grant from the Public Works Administration. These are a building for small mammals and great apes; one for elephants, rhinoceroses and hippopotamuses, and a new wing for the bird house. Over two million visitors went to the park during the year, including groups from 579 schools.

The Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory continued to record the variations in the sun's heat at its three mountain stations, in California, Chile and Egypt. A new method of distinguishing unfavorable sky conditions was developed during the year, which will lead to even greater accuracy in measuring the sun's variability.

Besides the usual scientific publications, a weekly radio broadcast on the activities of the institution has been put on the air by the Office of Education in cooperation with the National Broadcasting Company.

THE CHARLES HAYDEN FOUNDATION

THE late Charles Hayden, of New York City, left his entire estate, estimated at about \$50,000,000, with the exception of several specific bequests, to establish The Charles Hayden Foundation for the education of boys and young men and the advancement of their "moral, mental and physical well-being," and for other purposes.

A gift of \$1,000,000 is made to his alma mater, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and outright bequests amounting to \$647,000 to various friends. A trust fund of two million dollars is left to his brother, Josiah Willard Hayden, of Boston; a \$500,000 trust fund to a friend, and three other small trusts for friends and employees are established. In each case the principal of these trusts reverts eventually to the foundation.

The objects of the foundation are given as follows:

- 1.—To assist needy boys and young men.
- 2.—To assist in charitable and public educational purposes for the moral, mental, physical and intellectual well-being, uplifting and upbuilding of boys and young men of this country.