

THE FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

THE annual report of the director of the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, for the year 1936 has been published. This is the last report of the late Stephen C. Simms, formerly director, who died on January 28.

The report opens with a statement calling attention to the financial needs of the museum. In 1936, and during several preceding years, the growth and development of the museum has been seriously menaced by decreases in nearly all sources of income. Returns from corporate securities in which endowment funds have been invested, from taxes levied for the maintenance of museums, from paid admissions, from fees paid for museum memberships and contributions received from public-spirited citizens, all have been far below former years and below the needs of the institution. If the museum is to carry on its expeditions, research and dissemination of knowledge and its services to the public of Chicago and the Middle West, increases in revenue must be obtained. Among the larger contributions received during the year were securities valued at \$85,000 from Albert W. Harris, \$74,626 from Marshall Field, of New York, and \$59,882 from Stanley Field, president of the museum.

The number of visitors during 1936 was 1,191,437, representing a small increase over 1935, when attendance was 1,182,349. Of the total number of visitors, only 68,375, or less than 6 per cent., paid the twenty-five cent admission fee charged on certain days. The others came on free days or belonged to classes such as children, students and teachers, to whom admission is free.

The educational influence of the museum was extended by extra-mural activities directed principally toward reaching school children. One division of the museum, the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation, sent lecturers to 444 school assemblies. Traveling exhibits, circulated among 446 schools and other institutions through the Department of the N. W. Harris Public School Extension, reached approximately 700,000 children in public, parochial and private schools and in community centers. The spring and autumn lecture courses for adults, the Raymond Foundation's free-motion picture programs for children in the James Simpson Theater of the museum and the guide-lecture tours of the exhibits, attracted audiences of 78,711 persons. The library of scientific publications, which is open to the public for reference, was increased to approximately 105,000 volumes. Each of the scientific departments continued to provide collections of study specimens for use as reference material by teachers, students and others.

The report contains detailed accounts of new exhibits, accessions, research and other activities of the departments of anthropology, botany, geology and zoology and the various other divisions of the museum. There is also a complete list of its 4,238 members.

THE MEDAL MEETING OF THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

THE medal meeting of the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia will be held on Wednesday afternoon, May 19, at 3:30 p. m. As has already been reported in *SCIENCE*, the Franklin Gold Medal and certificate of honorary membership will be awarded to Dr. Robert A. Millikan, director of the Norman Bridge Laboratory of Physics and chairman of the Executive Council of the California Institute of Technology, and to Dr. Peter Joseph Wilhelm Debye, director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute of Physics, Berlin.

The Franklin Medal is awarded annually from the Franklin Medal Fund, founded on January 1, 1914, by Samuel Insull, "to those workers in physical science or technology, without regard to country, whose efforts, in the opinion of the institute, acting through its Committee on Science and the Arts, have done most to advance a knowledge of physical science or its applications."

The award is made to Dr. Millikan "In recognition of his isolation and measurement of the fundamental unit of electricity, the electron; the photoelectric determination of the fundamental constant of radiation, Planck's constant; the extension of the ultra-violet spectrum by two octaves to join the spectrum of soft x-rays; and the study of the nature and the properties of a very penetrating radiation of cosmic origin."

Dr. Debye will receive the medal "In recognition of his fundamental conception and masterly development of the theory that the molecules of many substances possess permanent dipole moments—a theory of great value in stimulating a vast amount of fruitful research on the electrical properties of insulators; his extension and generalization of Einstein's theory of the specific heats of solids, and his work, in collaboration with Huckel, on a theory of the thermodynamic properties of electrolytic solutions, work upon which the whole modern theory of electrolytes is based."

In addition to the Franklin Medal the following medals will be awarded:

The Longstreth Medals: Emile Monnin Chamot, Ph.D., professor of chemistry, Cornell University; Richard T. Erban, consulting engineer, New York City; John S. Haug, consulting gas engineer, United Engineers and Constructors, Inc., Philadelphia; Harold Sinclair, director, Hydraulic Coupling and Engineering Company, Ltd., England; Herbert L. Whittemore, chief, Engineering Mechanics Section, National Bureau of Standards.

The Henderson Medal: Rupen Eksergian, Ph.D., E. G. Budd Manufacturing Company, Philadelphia.

The Levy Medal: Inge Lyse, professor of engineering materials, Lehigh University.

The Potts Medal: John Clyde Hostetter, Sc.D., vice-president, Hartford Empire Company, Conn.

The Cresson Medals: Carl David Anderson, Ph.D., California Institute of Technology; William Bowie, Sc.D., LL.D., United States Coast and Geodetic Survey (retired); Jacques Edwin Brandenberger, Neuilly-sur-Seine, France; William Francis Giauque, Ph.D., University of

California; Ernest Orlando Lawrence, Ph.D., director, Radiation Laboratory, University of California.

An address will be presented on behalf of Dr. Milikan, who is unable to attend the ceremonies, by Dr. Carl D. Anderson, of the California Institute of Technology, on "Exploring the Stratosphere for New Electrical Effects." Dr. Debye's address on "Structure in Electrolytic Solutions" will be presented by Dr. Charles P. Smyth, of Princeton University.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. WILLIAM H. PARK, founder of the public health laboratories of New York City, received the George M. Kober Medal from the Association of American Physicians on May 5 at the closing session of its fifty-second annual convention at Atlantic City. It was announced that next year the medal will be awarded to Dr. Rufus Cole, director of the Hospital of the Rockefeller Institute, New York.

DR. JAMES F. NORRIS, professor of organic chemistry at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been awarded the annual medal for notable service to science and chemistry of the American Institute of Chemists. The medal will be presented to Dr. Norris on May 15 at the annual dinner of the institute. The award was made in recognition of "outstanding service as a teacher and as an investigator in the field of organic chemistry."

THE Pennsylvania Society of New York has awarded its Medal for Distinguished Service to Dr. Victor G. Heiser, from 1914 to 1927 director for the Far East of the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation, and from 1927 to 1934 associate director of the International Health Division of the foundation. The award was made in recognition of the medical research carried out by him under the auspices of the foundation.

AT the annual dinner of the National Institute of Social Science, New York City, on May 11, one of the gold medals of the society was presented to Dr. James Rowland Angell, president of Yale University, "in recognition of services rendered in the interest of scholarship and education; because of distinction in psychology, and as a truly distinguished educator."

A DINNER in honor of Dr. William F. Durand, emeritus professor of engineering at Stanford University, was given on May 7 by alumni in San Francisco. Mr. Herbert Hoover was chairman of the committee arranging the dinner.

FIVE members of the National Association of Science Writers, all of whom have reported the meetings of the

American Association for the Advancement of Science for many years, shared the \$1,000 Pulitzer award for 1937. The award, "for the most distinguished example of a reporter's work, "was given in recognition of their accomplishments in connection with the tercentenary celebration of Harvard University. The criteria on which the award is made are "strict accuracy, terseness, the preference being given to stories prepared under the pressure of edition time that redound to the credit of journalism." Those sharing the award are: Howard W. Blakeslee, Associated Press, *president*; William L. Laurence, *The New York Times*, *vice-president*; David Dietz, Scripps-Howard Newspapers, *past president*; Gobind Behari Lal, *Universal Service*, and John J. O'Neill, *The New York Herald-Tribune*.

A WHITE pine tree was planted at Warrensburg, N. Y., on the Charles Lathrop Pack Demonstration Forest on May 7, by the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse, N. Y., to celebrate the eightieth birthday of Charles Lathrop Pack, president of the American Tree Association. This tree will be a companion to the George Washington tree planted in front of the rustic lodge along the main highway running north and south between Lake George and Montreal. It will be planted by Dean Samuel N. Spring, Professors Ralph T. King and Svend Heiberg, with the assistance of the director of the Pack Forest, Clifford H. Foster. Mr. Pack, the donor of several college forests, has given two forests to the New York State College, one of 1,000 acres on the shores of Cranberry Lake, and one of 2,250 acres, three miles north of Warrensburg.

THE Medal of the British Society of Chemical Industry, presented every alternate year "for conspicuous service to applied chemistry," has been awarded to Professor G. G. Henderson, regius professor of chemistry in the University of Glasgow. The medal was awarded in recognition of original research—mostly in the organic field, particularly the chemistry of terpenes—and of the supervision of the research work of students.