

and the complete satisfaction of human needs and our thirst for new knowledge is beyond the capacity of our imagination.

Other elements of Duncan's leadership were his very human qualities, his warm sympathy, his capacity for emotion and his genuine interest in his associates. These qualities are certainly essential attributes of great leadership. Every soldier in Napoleon's army heard of how after midnight before the battle of Jena the little man took a lantern and helped a squad of gunners get a gun out of the mud and up the slope to its position. Duncan was interested in the personal

success of every youngster who worked in these laboratories. He would often put his head through the door of one of the laboratories and say, "Boy, are all your problems solved?" We knew, after a little, that he meant more than our immediate research difficulties. And so I can easily imagine him repeating that question here to-night, notwithstanding this splendid building built by the Mellons, who believed in and shared his vision for better things for us all. Duncan might remind us gently that it is no time to rest on our oars, and he might even say to our director, "Boy, are all your problems solved?"

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

SYMPOSIA AT THE DENVER MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

SINCE the association covers practically the whole field of pure and applied science, it is in an especially favorable position for organizing symposia, particularly on subjects which extend across the borders of special sciences. Indeed, no other American society or association is so well qualified by breadth of interests, large membership, organization into sections and means for publication as is the association for promoting authoritative general synthesis of scientific knowledge. The Denver meeting from next June 21 to June 26 gives every promise of maintaining the high standards in symposia which have been set at earlier meetings.

It will be remembered that at the Atlantic City meeting last winter the Section on Medical Sciences (N) organized a symposium on cancer. The program consisted of 31 papers, which together cover in a systematic manner essentially all that is now known about this dreaded disease. These papers are being brought out in book form under the editorship of Dr. Henry B. Ward. Therefore, medical investigators and practitioners will soon have available at low cost a compact general survey of one of the most important fields of medicine.

At the approaching Denver meeting, the Section on Medical Sciences will present another symposium by distinguished investigators, this time on diseases caused by acid-fast bacteria. This symposium will be characterized by the same thorough planning as that on cancer, the papers falling under four general headings which together cover the whole field. The first will give a review of the bacterial, chemical and pathological characteristics of acid-fast bacteria. The second group will be devoted to tuberculosis and other animal diseases of acid-fast bacterial origin; the third, to leprosy; and the fourth, to human tuberculosis. At the Indianapolis meeting next winter, the same section will present a symposium on syphilis.

A symposium on a widely different subject is being organized for the Denver meeting under the joint auspices of the Ecological Society of America and the association, Dr. H. de Forest representing the former society and Dr. Henry B. Ward the latter. This symposium, which is on "The Scientific Aspects of the Control of Drifting Soils," is also one of a series under a continuing sponsorship. It also has to an exceptional degree both purely scientific and highly practical aspects, and it ranges broadly across geological, climatological, botanical and economic fields.

At another extreme is a symposium on "Cosmic Physics" by the Section on Physics (B) and the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Physical Society. Obviously, this subject has no present direct bearing on such practical questions as health or natural resources. Yet it stimulates the imagination and broadens the spirit. Its appeal is akin to that of philosophy and religion, and in the long course of time it may prove to be even more important to us as thinking beings than many of the so-called practical subjects.

Among other symposia which will be presented at the Denver meeting is one on "Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever," under the joint sponsorship of the Section on Zoological Sciences (F) and the American Society of Parasitologists; one on "Forests and Waters," under the sponsorship of American Foresters; one on "Air-mass Analysis as Applied to Western United States," including the "Dust Bowl" problem, under the auspices of the American Meteorological Society, and one on "Radio Transmission and Solar Phenomena," under the joint auspices of the Section on Astronomy (D) and the Astronomical Society of the Pacific.

This brief sketch of the principal symposia that will be presented at Denver shows the richness and variety of the scientific programs of the approaching meeting of the association. To all these attractions, as well as those of the general lectures and the special programs of the fifteen sections and numerous related societies, are added the unsurpassed summer climate of Denver

and the magnificent neighboring mountains. It requires no prophet to foresee that the meeting will be very successful.

F. R. MOULTON,
Permanent Secretary

FUNDS FOR THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

A PLAN to raise \$10,000,000 for the American Museum of Natural History has been announced by F. Trubee Davison, president of the museum. The museum has now an endowment fund of \$16,176,640. Annual recurring expenses amount to \$431,197, with a deficit of \$55,000 for 1937. The new fund would be used to provide an income to cover these expenses and for a ten-year program of development in all departments.

Due to lack of funds the museum is handicapped by insufficient personnel and is unable to fill gaps in its collections, increase its public exhibits, broaden its teaching facilities, maintain its research and keep up to date with the publication of the results of its scientific work.

The expansion plans include an increase of forty per cent. in the staff of librarians, technicians and laboratory assistants, with salaries commensurate with those in similar institutions. The first application of the new funds, after covering the museum's deficit, would be to double expenditures for education. Objective demonstrations of such subjects as eugenics, environmental problems and conservation are planned. A large-scale development of the collection of American mammalogy may be undertaken and among other projects suggested are completion of the Hall of the Races of Man, a New Hall of Man dealing with embryology and the development of man's body and behavior, reconstruction and modernization of the American Indian Halls, the construction of an Australian Hall, a microvivarium, extension of the Reptile Hall and a North American Mammal Hall.

A series of expeditions suggested by the curators include: Field activities in Australia; ichthyological work in South America; expeditions to the California coast and to the Great Barrier Reef of Australia for the study of living invertebrates, and a field program to complete the museum's collection of fossils from every geologic age in the United States.

Mr. Davison is general chairman of the program, A. Perry Osborn, a member of the board of trustees, is executive chairman, Mrs. Winthrop W. Aldrich is vice-chairman, and E. Roland Harriman is treasurer. Other members of the committee for the campaign are George T. Bowdoin, W. Douglas Burden, Clarence L. Hay, Julius S. Morgan, Daniel E. Pomeroy, Leonard C. Sanford and Arthur S. Vernay.

DINNER OF THE SOCIETY OF THE FRIENDS OF SCRIPTA MATHEMATICA

ON the evening of May 9, at the Hotel Astor, New York City, the Society of the Friends of *Scripta Mathematica* held a dinner in honor of Professor Eric Temple Bell, for his contributions to public enlightenment regarding the significance of mathematics as an essential means to general culture. Dr. Bell gave the principal address. Other guests of honor were Professors Cassius Jackson Keyser and David Eugene Smith and Mr. M. Lincoln Schuster, publisher of *Scripta Mathematica*. The speakers included Professors William P. Montague, Edward Kasner and Joseph Shipley. Professor J. Ginsburg, editor of the journal, acted as chairman.

The dinner was attended by more than 150 friends of the journal and of the society. The proceeds of the dinner will be used for the publication fund of the journal, said to be the only mathematical magazine in the world edited by specialists for laymen. In addition to the *Scripta Mathematica*, a quarterly, the first issue of which appeared in 1933, the society publishes a mathematical library of volumes for the general public, the latest of which is "Every Man a Millionaire," by a mathematician with the pseudonym David Dunham. The second series of the "Portraits of Eminent Mathematicians," by Professor Smith, the first of which appeared last year, is in preparation. These portraits, printed with explanatory text by Dr. Smith, are taken from the collection, part of which was presented by Professor Smith to Columbia University on his retirement from active service.

Associate editors of *Scripta Mathematica* include: Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, executive director of the Brooklyn Jewish Federation, Dr. David E. Smith, Dr. Cassius J. Keyser, Professor Louis Charles Karpinski, Sir Thomas Little Heath, Dr. Adolf Fraenkel, now at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Professor Lao Genevra Simons, Vino Loria and Vera Sanford.

In setting forth the purposes of the society, Dr. Ginsburg pointed out that although there were many mathematical journals, they were usually closed to the lay reader and circulated only among mathematicians, and that *Scripta Mathematica*, which includes departments devoted to book reviews, biographies, "recreational mathematics" or unique mathematical puzzles, as well as more formal papers on various aspects of the history and philosophy of mathematics, provides a publication for the man who is not a specialist in the field.

In addition to the issues of the journal, the three books in the mathematics library and the first series of "Portraits of Eminent Mathematicians" were on display. Further publications in preparation were announced, including "Mathematical Ideas in Design," by