

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

Rutherford Boyd, and "Magic Squares and Cubes," by Royal V. Heath.

### THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

At the annual meeting of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, held on May 12 at its house, 28 Newbury Street, Boston, Mass., it was voted to award the Rumford Medal to William Weber Coblentz, physicist of the Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C., in recognition of his investigations in heat and light, including the physical study of the firefly, photoelectric properties of materials, the radiation of stars and pioneer work on the temperatures of the planets.

The Rumford Fund was established by a gift to the academy in 1796 from Sir Benjamin Thompson, Count Rumford, from the income of which medals may be awarded whenever the academy sees fit "to the author of any important discovery or useful improvement in light or heat, which shall have been made in any part of America."

At this meeting one foreign honorary member was elected—M. Henri Piéron, psychologist, University of Paris—and sixteen fellows, of whom the following represent the scientific sections of the academy:

#### *Class I—Mathematical and Physical Sciences*

Kenneth Tompkins Bainbridge, assistant professor of physics, Harvard University.

John Tileston Edsall, assistant professor of biological chemistry, Harvard University.

Gustavus John Esselen, consulting chemical engineer, Boston.

Joseph Henry Keenan, associate professor of mechanical engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Ernest Orlando Lawrence, professor of physics, University of California.

George Walter Stewart, professor of physics, University of Iowa.

Jabez Curry Street, assistant professor of physics, Harvard University.

Harald Malcolm Westergaard, professor of civil engineering, Harvard University.

#### *Class II—Natural and Physiological Sciences*

Walter Walker Palmer, director of medical service, Presbyterian Hospital, New York City.

Alfred Sherwood Romer, professor of zoology, Harvard University.

The following officers were elected for the coming year:

*President*: Dugald Caleb Jackson.

*Vice-president*, for Class I: James Flack Norris.

*Vice-president*, for Class II: Walter Bradford Cannon.

*Vice-president*, for Class III: George Grafton Wilson.

*Vice-president*, for Class IV: Arthur Stanley Pease.

*Corresponding Secretary*: Leigh Hoadley.

*Recording Secretary*: Tenney Lombard Davis.

*Treasurer*: Ingersoll Bowditch.

*Librarian*: Hervey Woodburn Shimer.

*Editor*: Charles Henry Blake.

Professor Percy W. Bridgman spoke on "Physical Phenomena at High Pressure."

### THE DIRECTORSHIP OF THE HOSPITAL OF THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

DR. THOMAS MILTON RIVERS, at present a member of the Rockefeller Institute, has been selected as director of the Department of the Hospital of the Institute to succeed Dr. Rufus Cole, who has reached the age of retirement and is withdrawing from the directorship of the hospital on June 30.

Dr. Cole has been director since its founding in 1910. When the institute was started, provision was made only for laboratories; but after a few years had elapsed the need became apparent for a hospital in which disease could be studied as it actually occurs in man. An additional gift to the funds of the institute by John D. Rockefeller made the hospital possible; and Dr. Cole, an associate in the department of medicine at the Johns Hopkins Medical School, was chosen to be placed at its head.

At that time hospitals having for their major function the investigation of disease were practically unknown. Dr. Cole started by selecting a small group of men with special interests in the basic sciences; and in the construction of the hospital building he arranged to have wards and laboratories in close proximity, so as to make readily available for the analysis of the phenomena associated with disease the techniques that had been provided through advancement in the sciences of physics, chemistry and biology. He has directed his energies and those of his staff toward the study of the common diseases which affect a large number of persons. Acute respiratory diseases, rheumatic fever, diseases of the heart, Bright's disease and the exanthematous diseases of childhood are among those which have been subjected to almost uninterrupted investigation at the hospital. No less than thirty men who have worked with Dr. Cole in the Hospital of the Rockefeller Institute now hold professorships in the medical schools of the United States and abroad.

Dr. Rivers was associate in the department of bacteriology of the Johns Hopkins Medical School, remaining there until his appointment as associate in the hospital of the Rockefeller Institute in New York in 1922. In 1927 he was appointed to membership in the institute. While at the Johns Hopkins University, he conducted studies on influenza bacilli, which resulted in the discovery of a new bacterium, *Hemophilus parainfluenzae*. Later at the Rockefeller Institute he undertook investigations of the filterable