

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE JANE COFFIN CHILDS MEMORIAL FUND FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

THE establishment of the Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund for Medical Research in memory of the late Mrs. Starling W. Childs was announced at the alumni luncheon at the two hundred and thirty-sixth commencement of Yale University. The name of the donor was not made public, but it is reported in the daily press that the endowment was set up by Starling W. Childs, New York investment broker. Under the deed of gift the foundation, which is expected to cooperate closely with the Yale Medical School, will be administered by a board of managers advised by a board of scientific advisers. The members of the board will be:

- Dr. Stanhope Bayne-Jones, dean of the Yale Medical School, a bacteriologist.
- Dr. Rudolph J. Anderson, professor of chemistry at Yale, who has done extensive research into the chemistry of the tuberculosis germ.
- Dr. Ross G. Harrison, professor of biology at Yale and director of the Osborn Zoological Laboratory in the university.
- Dr. Peyton Rous, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research.
- Dr. Milton C. Winternitz, formerly dean of the Yale Medical School and now Anthony N. Brady professor of pathology at Yale.

The resources of the foundation, said to be in the neighborhood of \$10,000,000, will be devoted primarily to research into the causes and origins of cancer. It is provided that when in the judgment of the board of managers the causes and origins of the disease had been sufficiently determined, the fund "may thereafter on the advice of the board of scientific advisers" be devoted to research into "some other unsolved problems of medicine" or of "some other field of science."

In announcing the gift, Dr. Angell, retiring president of the university, spoke as follows:

The generous gifts pledged for the endowment of the Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund places the university and our alumni under an enduring debt of gratitude to the donors.

Our abiding appreciation of their great gifts for this purpose will be shared by the world at large because of the vision and imagination shown by them in planning for the administration of this foundation, to make sure that it will benefit not merely Yale and our own community of New Haven, but that it will also, through Yale, help advance the cause of scientific research elsewhere and thus, indeed, render signal service to mankind.

I only wish that I could put into adequate words half of what I would like to say of our happiness that Yale

has been entrusted with the means to benefit from what is, I think, the greatest opportunity ever given to any of our universities.

I count myself fortunate in that this has come to us while I am still Yale's president, so that I may have the honor to voice her gratitude and assure the donors of her determination to prove worthy of their confidence.

### THE WORK OF THE NEW YORK ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

THE forty-third spring meeting of the Board of Trustees of the New York Zoological Society, following the luncheon given in the Administration Building at the Bronx Park, occurred on May 13.

It will be recalled that this society, in addition to managing the Zoological Gardens, operates the Aquarium at Battery Park; is responsible for the series of marine expeditions under the direction of Dr. William Beebe and is an active force in conservation.

The meeting was presided over by Madison Grant, president, whose subsequent death on May 30 completed forty-two years of service as an officer of the society.

The trustees present were Messrs. W. Redmond Cross, first vice-president; Cornelius R. Agnew, treasurer; Fairfield Osborn, secretary; and Messrs J. Watson Webb, DeForest Grant, Warren Kinney, W. Douglas Burden, Ogden L. Mills, C. Suydam Cutting, Childs Frick, Alfred Ely, Herbert L. Satterlee, Laurance Rockefeller, Robert Gordon McKay and Bayard Dominick. There were also present Dr. W. Reid Blair, director of the park; Dr. Charles H. Townsend, director of the aquarium; Messrs. William H. Latham, park engineer, Department of Parks; and George L. Quigley, borough director, Department of Parks. In addition to matters involving the administration of the park and aquarium, the following matters of particular interest were presented at the meeting:

The Permanent Wild Life Protection Fund, created by the late Dr. William T. Hornaday and which was under his direction until his death on May 6 last, was formally accepted by the society under whose management it was placed under the terms of Dr. Hornaday's will. The capital of this fund approximates \$130,000 and the use of the income therefrom will naturally result in materially broadening the scope of the society's activities in wild life conservation.

In this connection resolutions were passed at the meeting aimed at the establishment of a bear sanctuary on Admiralty Island on the southeast coast of Alaska; the extension of boundaries of Yosemite Park to insure forest conservation; and the establishment of a national park on the Olympic Peninsula.

It was announced that subscriptions of certain trustees and friends of the society are now adequate to in-

sure the carrying out of the work of Dr. William Beebe and his staff for the remainder of the current year at the station at Nonsuch Island in Bermuda, which has been used for several years previously for marine study.

A report was also submitted regarding the plans which are under way through which the society will be represented at the World's Fair in 1939. To date these plans include a so-called bathyspherium, which is being designed to exhibit deep sea life, together with novel types of aquarium exhibits.

There were also presented at the meeting certain projects which are under consideration for broadening the usefulness of the society to the public, particularly in connection with educational activities and in the development of zoological research work through the medium of a new laboratory in the animal hospital which has just been opened.

Among the more recent exhibits at the park are a Masai giraffe, a pair of secretary birds, an Asiga gazelle antelope from Russia and a wattled crane from East Africa—the two latter being displayed for the first time at the park.

It was reported that the attendance at the park was in excess of one million visitors through May 31, and the attendance at the aquarium was 965,209, being substantial increases over the similar period of the preceding year.

After the meeting the annual garden party was held on the lawns in front of the Administration Building attended by more than six hundred members and friends of the society.

FAIRFIELD OSBORN

#### THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF ENGINEERING EDUCATION

THE Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education is holding this week its forty-fifth annual meeting at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Conferences, designed to supplement the general sessions, include round-table discussions, presentation of papers dealing with various phases of the engineering curricula and laboratory inspections at both Harvard University and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The subjects planned for discussion include cooperative engineering courses, drawing and descriptive geometry, electrical engineering, engineering economy, English graduate work, guidance of pre-college students, industrial engineering, machine design, mathematics, mining and metallurgy and the professional status and employment of engineering graduates.

At the opening session, Dr. Vannevar Bush, vice-president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technol-

ogy and dean of engineering, with Dean-elect Harald M. Westergaard, of the Graduate School of Engineering of Harvard University, and Carl S. Ell, chairman of the New England Section of the society, welcomed the gathering. Following a response by President Hammond on behalf of the society, Dr. Karl T. Compton spoke. President Hammond then gave the annual presidential address, for which he chose as his subject "The Engineering Teacher." President Hammond presided at the annual dinner on Thursday evening at which President Henry M. Wriston, of Brown University, was the principal speaker.

Papers on the program read at the meetings include addresses by Henry W. Holmes, dean of the Graduate School of Education of Harvard University, on "Practical Outcomes of the Study of Education Since 1900," and by President William O. Hotchkiss, of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, on "Administering the Faculty"; Frederick M. Feiker, executive secretary of the American Engineering Council, presented a paper on "The Teacher and the Social Significance of the Engineer." Other speakers were Professor Warren K. Lewis, of the department of chemical engineering of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Professor Thomas N. Whitehead, of Harvard University; Professor Virgil M. Faires, of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of the University of Texas; Professor Frank L. Eidmann, of Columbia University, and Dr. Paul Cloke, dean of the College of Technology of the University of Maine.

#### HONORARY DEGREES CONFERRED BY YALE UNIVERSITY

ELEVEN honorary degrees were conferred by Yale University at its commencement on June 23. These included the doctorate of science on Dr. E. O. Lawrence, of the University of California, and on Dr. John H. Northrop, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. Dr. William Lyon Phelps, public orator of the university, presented the candidates, and President Angell conferred the degrees. The citations were as follows:

*Ernest Orlando Lawrence, Sc.D.*

Professor Phelps:

Physicist. Born in the twentieth century in South Dakota. A student of St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn., holding bachelor's and master's and doctor's degrees from the University of South Dakota, University of Minnesota, University of Chicago, and Yale, where he subsequently became national research fellow and assistant professor. Dr. Lawrence is now Professor of Physics at the University of California. His researches in the structure of atoms, atomic nucleus, transmutation of atoms, interaction of radiation and matter, have given