

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

## REPORT OF THE BRITISH FORESTRY COMMISSION

THE seventeenth annual report of the British Forestry Commission with the details of a plan for afforestation and forest workers' holdings in connection with the Special Areas of England and Wales is given in the *London Times*.

The areas concerned are the mining districts of South Wales, Durham and Tyneside, Haltwhistle and West Cumberland. It has been estimated that within about 15 miles of these Special Areas there are some 200,000 acres of land which might be acquired for afforestation and that 1,000 forest workers' holdings might usefully be established. As a first instalment, covering three years and largely as an experiment, the commissioners were authorized to acquire and to begin planting 100,000 acres and to establish 500 holdings.

The financial provision for the year beginning April 1, 1936, amounted to £200,000, thereby increasing to £700,000 the total sum voted by Parliament to the Forestry Fund in that year. The plans were announced late in February, 1936. The report surveys the first seven months of preparatory work. Three factors were involved: provision of suitable small trees for planting, acquisition of land and provision of skilled staff.

Steps were taken in the spring of 1936 to cultivate a larger area—over 100 acres—of nursery ground and to sow seed additional to normal requirements. The largest new nursery established was at Tair Onen, near Cardiff. Up to May, 1937, the acquisition of 14,100 acres of plantable land had been completed and the acquisition of an additional 23,600 plantable acres had been approved; 86 forest workers' holdings had been completed or were in course of establishment. No additional planting was possible in the winter of 1936-37, but plans are being made for the planting of 3,350 acres in 1937-38.

The report states that the scheme for the Argyll National Forest Park has now taken definite shape. The park comprises two closely adjoining areas in an unspoilt and almost uninhabited district immediately west of Loch Long. The area, which is approximately of 100 square miles, includes within its present boundary the hills and glens around Arrochar, Ardgail, Glenbranter, Glenfinart and Benmore. A public camping ground, car park and buildings for the use of campers have recently been provided at Ardgartan.

The Argyll Park having been found so far to be successful, the commissioners have been encouraged to consider the formation of a somewhat similar area in Wales. A committee, of which Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Wynne Finch is chairman, is now examining the

possibilities of the commission's areas in Snowdonia as a further national forest park.

The total area of land in the commissioners' control is now about 954,500 acres. The area planted last year was 20,576 acres, bringing the total area planted by the commission to 296,452 acres.

## THE PROPOSED REINCORPORATION OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

AT the annual meeting of the American Chemical Society, to be held at Rochester, N. Y., from September 6 to 10, a general assembly is called for 2 o'clock on the afternoon of September 8, to act upon a resolution authorizing the directors to take such steps as are necessary to reincorporate the society, either under the laws of the District of Columbia or by act of the Congress.

*Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* writes:

The directors have given this matter careful and detailed consideration and are convinced that such incorporation is in the best interests of the society. With such incorporation the status of the society as a national organization is firmly established and its freedom to operate in any state or any group of states is made certain. It would place the society in a position where it may hope to obtain a central home like that of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Pharmaceutical Association, the National Education Association, the National Geographic Society and the Carnegie Institution. Being national in scope, indeed international, our members will have an *esprit de corps* and a feeling of corporate unity which they do not altogether possess by our present incorporation in a single state. Our Council and Board of Directors consist of representatives selected from the various regions of the country, irrespective of the fact that we are a New York State corporation. Individuals in these governing bodies are repeatedly hampered in the performance of their duties by lack of knowledge of the laws of the State of New York. Under federal charter this difficulty is eliminated, as the society will be subject simply to its own act of incorporation.

The society's legal headquarters are in New York. It also maintains offices in Washington, one in Massachusetts and one in Ohio. As an educational and scientific organization it is and always has been exempt from state and national taxation. In the District of Columbia it is exempt from taxes on any real estate it may own and use for society purposes, but an old law has just been uncovered which makes it liable to personal tax.

The society wishes to be wholly national and to function from the Nation's capital. All income of the society is devoted exclusively to the advancement of our country's welfare. If federal incorporation is granted, the income of this society, just as the income of the Carnegie Institution, the income of the National Academy of Sciences

and the income of the Smithsonian Institution will be exempt from all taxation and from many petty vexations that are likely to occur through loosely drawn or ill-considered legislation in our 48 states or the District of Columbia. For example, Pennsylvania has just passed a law that any non-stock, non-profit corporation of any other state must obtain a certificate before it can do business in Pennsylvania.

It is expected that the society from time to time in the future, as in the past, will have occasion to carry on some special work in some one of the states other than the state of its present incorporation—New York. With federal incorporation this work can be carried on more efficiently. Without it the society is liable to restriction in activities essential to chemical achievement. If for any reason national charter can not be obtained, incorporation under the laws of the District of Columbia will relieve the situation.

It is hoped by the society's directors that the membership will give this proposed incorporation their unanimous approval.

### THE FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

IN celebration of the twenty millionth visitor the Field Museum, Chicago, has arranged a special exhibit in Stanley Field Hall (occupying the nave of the building) whereby the progress of the institution may be traced from the time of its founding forty-four years ago by the late Marshall Field and civic leaders associated with him. In a statement Dr. Clifford C. Gregg, director of the museum, says:

Twenty million visitors during the sixteen years of occupancy of this building represent an average attendance of 1,250,000 annually. This is more than five times the average of 228,000 a year received in the old building in Jackson Park, which housed the museum during the first twenty-six years of its existence. The contrast between the two periods—20,000,000 visitors in sixteen years in the present building as against less than 6,000,000 in twenty-six years in the old—testifies to the foresight of the museum trustees who were responsible for obtaining the present centrally located site easily accessible from all parts of the city. Of course, the change of location is not the only factor—the city's population has grown, there has been a general widening interest on the part of the public in science and in cultural fields of all kinds, and the museum, since it first opened in 1894, has doubled and redoubled its activities to serve the public.

Attendance statistics in the archives of the museum follow:

1927—with an attendance of 1,043,546, 1927 was the first year in which attendance exceeded one million. It has exceeded a million every year since that time.

1933—with an attendance of 3,269,390, the museum established a record exceeding any single year's attendance at any museum in the world at any time in history.

August 24, 1933—the biggest single day's attendance ever experienced at the museum, with 65,966 visitors between 9 A.M. and 6 P.M.

Last year, 1936, with 1,191,437 visitors, represented what is regarded as a fair norm for the years since A Century of Progress Exposition, with a slight increase over 1935. So far this year, attendance shows a slight increase over that recorded at the corresponding date last year.

The special exhibit, which opened on August 1 and will continue until September 6, illustrates the advances made in museum technique since the earliest days of the museum. A few old exhibits, long since withdrawn, are displayed temporarily where they can be compared with the types of exhibits prepared to-day. Charts, graphs, photographs and other material show the expansion that has taken place in every branch of activity.

### RECENT DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

DR. GEORGE PERKINS CLINTON, until his retirement on July 1 botanist of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station at New Haven, died on August 13 at the age of seventy-one years.

DR. JOSEPH A. BLAKE, from 1903 to 1913 professor of surgery at Columbia University and formerly consulting surgeon at various hospitals in New York City, died on August 12 in his seventy-third year.

WILLIAM LESLIE EDISON, known for his work on radio broadcasting and reception, eldest son of Thomas Alva Edison, died on August 10. He was in his fifty-ninth year.

LEON M. ESTABROOK, who retired in 1930 as assistant director of scientific work in the U. S. Department of Agriculture and who had been connected with the statistical work of the department since 1904, died on August 14 at the age of sixty-eight years.

DR. WALTER MOSAUER, instructor in zoology at the University of California at Los Angeles, died on August 11 as the result of an infection incurred while on an expedition to the Mexican jungles in search of reptiles for his collection. He was thirty-two years old.

GILBERT YOUNG, an engineer in the Topographic Branch of the U. S. Geological Survey, was killed in an automobile accident near Rome, N. Y., on August 8. He was a graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and had been on the staff of the survey since December, 1902.

SIR DAVID ORME MASSON, from 1886 until his retirement with the title emeritus in 1923 professor of chemistry in the University of Melbourne, died on