

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