

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE NEW BUILDING OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

The British Medical Journal states that plans for the new home of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain have been passed by the London County Council. Building operations will start shortly, and the society expects to enter into occupation in 1939. The site is the north side of Brunswick Square, within five minutes' walk of the British Medical Association House. It will be within a half-mile radius of the central tower of the university now approaching completion. The building will have six floors and will embody an assembly hall, library, lecture theaters, laboratory accommodation and classrooms, council chamber and committee rooms and full provision for the administration and publication departments, which are at present rather scattered in Bloomsbury Square. Chiefly with a view to harmonizing with the Victorian character of the new locality, the façades will be of brick, with an unusual and pleasing treatment of the principal frontage. To the right of the vestibule on entering will be the assembly hall, extending to the height of two floors and seating from 350 to 400 persons; to the left will be the library, also two stories in height, with embayments in which small tables for readers will be placed. Directly facing the vestibule will be a lecture theater, accommodating 250, with provision for up-to-date cinematograph and other demonstrations. This will be flanked on each side by an open court, permitting cross-lighting of the assembly hall and library. A members' lounge and writing room are also to be provided, and on an upper floor council and committee accommodation.

The Pharmaceutical Society incorporates a college, which is a school of the University of London in the Faculty of Medicine, with 100 students, and to this college will be devoted the whole of the third and fourth floors in the new building. There will be a large dispensary, departments for advanced and physical chemistry, bacteriology and research, a small-scale manufactory and a galenical department. Tutorial and service rooms, a second lecture theater, a curator's room, staff rooms and workshops will complete the provision for the school. Examination rooms are to be placed against the respective departments throughout. The top floor is to be devoted to pharmacological research, with a nutrition department, various animal rooms and histological and chemical laboratories. Another department for which provision is to be made is pharmacognosy, or the science of crude drugs.

EXPEDITION OF THE PHILADELPHIA ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND THE PEABODY MUSEUM

AN expedition to southeastern Asia, Java and the Philippines, sponsored by the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and the Peabody Museum of Harvard University, left New York on October 6. Dr. Hellmut deTerra, associate curator of geology and paleontology of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and research associate of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, is in charge of the expedition. He will be accompanied by Dr. Hallam L. Movius, of the Peabody Museum of Harvard University. The party will proceed to the town of Mandalay in Northern Burma, which will serve as a base of field operations. Here, with the cooperation of the Burma Division of the Geological Survey of India, the expedition will search the gravels along the banks of the Irrawaddy River for fossils of prehistoric man and animals. Stone-age tools have already been uncovered in this region.

M. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, co-discoverer of Peking Man, will join the expedition in Burma on December 1, and with him two field trips will be made into the north above Myitkyina, which lies at the foot of the Chinese Alps, near the desolate wastes of Tibet.

From Burma, the expedition will travel by airplane to Singapore and Bandoeng, Java. There, joining forces with Dr. Ralph von Koenigswald, they will explore new sites along the Solo River, where last year Dr. von Koenigswald discovered the skull of a baby, probably the oldest skull in the world. As Java is extremely rich with evidence of both prehistoric man and the animals that lived contemporaneously with him, it offers an opportunity for the expedition to compare the age of early man there with finds in other parts of the world.

In the Philippines a survey will be made of the coastal plain near Manila that has been reported to contain fossils, which may possibly be identical with those associated with the remains of the Java and Peking man.

Dr. deTerra will concern himself primarily with the geological sequences and stratigraphy, and Dr. Teilhard de Chardin with paleontology. Dr. Movius will direct the collection of archeological and anthropological specimens.

The expedition is a result of the discussion arising at the International Symposium on Early Man, held last March at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, in celebration of its hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary.