SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE OCEANOGRAPHIC VESSEL CULVER OF THE BERMUDA BIOLOGICAL STATION

THE oceanographic vessel *Culver* has arrived at the Bermuda Islands from England for a five-year survey in cooperation with the Bermuda Biological Station and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution to measure the oscillation of the Gulf Stream. It is hoped that the survey may help to avert the next great drought in the United States Mid-West, predicting it in time to avert disastrous results to United States farming, and that it may also prove an aid to commercial fishermen in determining movements of fisheries in European waters.

The *Culver* is especially equipped for the Biological Station. It was purchased and refitted with a grant from the Development Commission of Great Britain. Through the Royal Society of London an additional grant may be made for the next five years for the operation of the vessel.

Professor Walter Garstang and Dr. Robert Gurney, of the University of Oxford, spent some time at the Bermuda Biological Station three years ago and returned to England impressed with the possibilities of the station for oceanographic work.

Professor Garstang is reported to have said:

> We went back to England with the thought that the English people ought to be told something about the features of the Bermuda colony which they seemed to have forgotten. We told them that Bermuda was a beautiful island perched on a pinnacle in the middle of the most interesting of all oceans, surrounded by deep waters which could be reached within an hour or less from the laboratory. We have been able to prove what we said. We caught a little creature—of no practical importance but very important scientifically—which had been caught only once before on a German ship which made an expedition into the Indian Ocean and southern Atlantic.

When Dr. Garstang and Dr. Gurney first returned they thought that if a small vessel could be obtained to be used more or less as a tender for the station, it would suffice. However, the Royal Society and the Development Commission favored a larger scheme, with the result that an ocean-going vessel was acquired.

The *Culver* is a converted yacht, 83 feet overall, with a beam of 19 feet, 3 inches. A spacious saloon will serve for a wardroom and a laboratory, and there are accommodations for three scientific men, the captain and the engineer, with crew quarters forward. The displacement of the vessel is 100 tons, and she is equipped with a new Diesel engine as an auxiliary to her sails. There is a large winch, operated from the vessel's main engines, for biological work. On the winch's cable is wound 3,500 fathoms of wire. For the hydrographic work there is an electrically driven winch forward—also with 3,500 fathoms of wire. The larger winch will be used for the nets; the smaller one will be used to let down water bottles in which samples of the ocean and temperatures, at various depths, will be taken.

The *Culver* will begin her work in the Gulf Stream. A double program, consisting of chemical and physical work and purely biological work, is planned. The former will be done in conjunction with the *Atlantis* within an area of sixty miles from Bermuda; the scientific men aboard the *Culver* will investigate local offshore currents. Quarterly cruises are planned for at least three or four years. The *Culver* will not be away from the station more than a week at a time, as it is necessary to get specimens into the laboratory quickly, and she will not go more than 100–150 miles from the islands. Entirely apart from the local aspects of the work are the hydrographic observations. Probably once a fortnight, but certainly once a month, the *Culver* will go to one or two defined stations, possibly 100 to 150 miles out, on this side of the Gulf Stream.

FARM RESEARCH LABORATORIES OF THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DIRECTORS for the four farm research laboratories to be established by the Department of Agriculture to search for new and wider industrial outlets and markets for agricultural commodities have been announced by Dr. Henry G. Knight, chief of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils. Dr. H. T. Herrick was recently appointed assistant chief of the bureau, having general supervision of the chemical and chemical engineering work in all four laboratories.

Each laboratory will have a broad circle of important contacts with industries, institutions and agricultural experiment stations. These will be largely in the hands of the individual directors. Included in the laboratory staff, which will be composed of several hundred people, there will be experts in many branches of science and technology, as well as fairly large business and service departments.

Dr. Knight pointed out that "The importance of the scientific studies undertaken in these laboratories demands that the director be a man with a record of successful research achievements plus the ability to inspire work of the highest professional character in others," and that "The men named have shown during their years of service with the department that they possess these desirable qualifications." They are as follows:

Northern Laboratory

The laboratory for the northern area, which includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan,

Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Nebraska, North and South Dakota and Wisconsin, will be under the direction of Dr. O. E. May, until recently director of the Soybean Industrial Products Laboratory at Urbana, Illinois.

Southern Laboratory

The laboratory for the southern area, which includes the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Texas, will be under the direction of D. F. J. Lynch, formerly chief of the Agricultural By-products Laboratory at Ames, Iowa.

Eastern Laboratory

The laboratory for the western area, which includes the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia and West Virginia, will be under the direction of P. A. Wells, of the Industrial Farm Products Research Division of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils.

Western Laboratory

The laboratory for the western area, which includes the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming, will be under the direction of Dr. T. L. Swenson, of the Food Research Division of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FIELD MUSEUM, CHICAGO

THE annual report of Dr. Clifford C. Gregg, director of Field Museum, Chicago, states that from the standpoint of service to the public, the year has been one of the most active and successful in the history of the institution.

The number of visitors received at the museum in 1938 has been approximately 1,390,000. This is an increase of about 100,000 over the 1937 attendance, which likewise had been more than 100,000 in excess of that registered in the preceding year. The balance of the more than 2,000,000 people brought directly within the sphere of the museum's influence consists of some 500,000 Chicago school children repeatedly reached by the 1,200 traveling natural history exhibits circulated by the N. W. Harris Public School Extension Department of the Museum, and approximately 180,000 children reached through lecturers sent into the schools by the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation of Field Museum.

Of the 1938 attendance, more than 93 per cent. were admitted free of charge, coming on the free days (Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays), or belonging to classifications such as children, teachers and students who are admitted free on all days. Thus the 25-cent admission fee charged on other days was paid by less than 7 per cent. of the total number.

All departments of the museum made important additions to their exhibits in 1938. Among these are: in the department of anthropology, an entire new hall devoted to Asiatic ethnology; in the department of botany, a diorama reproducing a scene above the timberline in the Rocky Mountains of Wyoming, and in the paleontological division of the department of geology, several new and rare reassembled skeletons of prehistoric animals. Added to the department of zoology are a habitat group of Wedell's seals collected in the Antarctic by Admiral Byrd; groups of the quetzal, the national bird of Guatemala, and of the toucan and the oropendula or giant oriole of the same country, collected by an expedition sponsored by Leon Mandel, of Chicago; a group of storks and their nests, obtained through the cooperation of the Polish-American Chamber of Commerce in Warsaw; a life-like mount of Su-Lin, famous giant panda of the Brookfield Zoo, which died in April; a habitat group of narwhals, collected off the Greenland coast by Captain Robert Bartlett, and a restoration of the extinct dodo.

In view of the fact that in 1938, as in other recent years, the depression has severely curtailed its budgets, it has been impossible for the museum to appropriate from its own funds for expeditions, the institution, however, was able to carry out an important expeditionary program with contributions from public-spirited Chicagoans. Sewell Avery sponsored four—a zoological expedition to British Guiana, a geological expedition in western and eastern parts of the United States and two botanical expeditions—one to Guatemala and one to Nova Scotia. Stanley Field, president of the museum, made available funds for continuation of the work, begun eight years ago, of archeological excavations of extensive scope and importance in southwestern Colorado. Dr. Wilfred H. Osgood, chief curator of zoology, personally financed and conducted an expedition concerned with biological research in New Mexico. Field work in other localities was conducted by other members of the staff. The museum press issued twenty-seven scientific publications and seven leaflets for lay readers.

THE NEW YORK MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

AT the New York City meeting of the American Anthropological Association, the following officers were elected:

President, D. Jenness.
First Vice-president, J. M. Cooper (1939).
Second Vice-president, E. A. Hooton (1939–1940).
Third Vice-president, W. D. Strong (1939–1941).
Fourth Vice-president, R. F. Benedict (1939–1942).
Secretary, F. M. Setzler.
Treasurer, Bella Weitzner.
Editor, R. Linton.
Associate Editors, M. J. Herskovits, F. H. H. Roberts, Jr., Melville Jacobs.