

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

VISITATION DAY AT THE GREENWICH OBSERVATORY

THE Board of Visitors of the Greenwich Observatory met on June 3 to receive the report of Dr. Spencer Jones, Astronomer Royal, on the work of the observatory for the year ending April 30.

Attention is called by the London *Times* to the circumstance that in the printed list of visitors the names of professors and others who occupy the position *ex-officio* remain as heretofore, but to the names of those nominated by the Royal Society and the Royal Astronomical Society, six in each case, a date is affixed to show that each is nominated for a period and indicating when that period expires. In this year's list Sir James Jeans and J. H. Reynolds give place to Dr. C. G. Darwin and Dr. R. Stoneley. The name of the late Sir Frank Dyson was printed in the list, and with that exception all the members were present. The invited company numbered nearly four hundred.

The Astronomer Royal, according to the report, is much concerned about the present suitability of Greenwich for certain branches of work, and for that of Abinger in Surrey, to which the magnetic registration of the elements of the earth's magnetic field was transferred in 1924. The electrification of further sections of the Southern Railway has made the removal of the magnetic observations a necessity. Experiments have been made at Selsey which show that the site should be not less than eight miles from any electrified railway, which, if the magnetic observatory is to remain in the south of England, limits the choice to Devon. As to the astronomy, the building developments southward of the observatory from which direction the prevailing winds come and the growth of industries near the river, together with modern developments of street lighting and the extensive use of neon signs, all have their adverse effect on long-exposure photography and in other ways. A table is given of the comparison of sunshine records at Kew and Greenwich which is striking. Twenty-five years ago the average yearly total at Greenwich was 60 hours in excess of Kew's; this has gradually diminished, and now the Greenwich total is less by 160 hours, this being ascribed to loss of register at Greenwich when the sun is low caused by atmospheric impurities.

Dr. Jones closes his report with the remark: "Proposals for the removal of the whole of the astronomical work from Greenwich and of the magnetic work from Abinger to new and more favorable sites are accordingly under consideration."

SURVEY OF THE CENTRAL AND SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN

PLANS for an extensive scientific survey of the Central and South Pacific Ocean, with a view to solving

some of its fundamental problems, have been announced by Dr. Gilbert Grosvenor, president of the National Geographic Society.

Arrangements for the expedition, which will be made on a Coast Guard Cutter, have been reached in consultation with President Roosevelt, Secretary Hull and Under-Secretary Welles, Secretary Morgenthau and Rear Admiral Russell R. Waesche, commandant of the Coast Guard, who are particularly interested in the contributions to navigation, both by water and air, that will be made by the magnetic studies which are a part of the work of the expedition. Concurrently with the carrying on of scientific work, the Coast Guard will make a survey of the present and future needs for navigational aids and radio facilities to assist marine and air commerce.

Professor Wilbur A. Nelson, chairman of the department of geology of the University of Virginia, will be the leader of the expedition. The party will include geophysicists, a geographer, a cartographer and a photographer, provided by the National Geographic Society; specialists on gravity from the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey; on magnetism from the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, and in marine biology from the Smithsonian Institution.

The National Broadcasting Company will send radio engineers to investigate radio phenomena, and will arrange a number of broadcasts by members of the scientific party from remote islands.

The cutter which will transport the expedition will be one of the newest and largest steel ships of the Coast Guard with a length of 327 feet and a displacement of 2,000 tons. It is fitted with the latest type of sonic depth-finders with which ocean depths are quickly ascertained by measuring the split-second time during which a sound travels to the ocean bottom and is echoed back. It carries a two-seater scout observation seaplane which will be used in making aerial photographs and maps of islands.

An important aspect of the work will be the attempt to solve by geophysical methods some of the fundamental geological problems of the Pacific. Stations on the various islands for gravity and magnetic determinations will be set up. At the same time the geology and structure of the islands will be studied. Although a number of magnetic determinations were made in the area a decade and more ago, no gravity work has been carried on there, and there has been no opportunity to relate magnetic, gravity and geologic observations.

The expedition will sail from San Francisco and will make one of its early stops at Canton Island, potential way-station for an air service between the

United States and Canada, on the one hand, and New Zealand and Australia on the other. Canton Island was the base of operations for another National Geographic Society expedition which, with the U. S. Navy, observed the total eclipse of the sun in June, 1937. It is now under joint American and British control. During its twelve months in the field, the ship will put in at intervals at Honolulu and Auckland, New Zealand, for supplies and mail.

The expedition, which will start next September and will be in the field for a year, will be conducted by the society and the University of Virginia, with the cooperation of the United States Coast Guard.

THE NEW YORK INSTITUTE FOR HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATORS

THE first New York Institute for Hospital Administrators opened a course of instruction on June 19 at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University with an address by Dr. Malcolm MacEachern, associate director of the American College of Surgeons and president of the International Hospital Association. The institute will continue through July 1.

Authorities on all phases of hospital administration speak on the problems and progress in that field. Ninety hospital superintendents, assistant superintendents and department heads have enrolled for the course, which includes round-table discussions. No public meetings are scheduled.

The institute is sponsored by the American College of Hospital Administrators and the Greater New York Hospital Association in cooperation with the faculty of medicine of Columbia University. Dr. Claude W. Munger, director of St. Luke's Hospital, is director. Dr. S. S. Goldwater, commissioner of the Department of Hospitals, is chairman of the advisory committee.

Among the speakers are Dr. Haven Emerson, of the College of Physicians and Surgeons; Dr. Joe R. Clemmons, director of Roosevelt Hospital; Dr. C. Rufus Rorem, of the American Hospital Association; Dr. Frederick MacCurdy, superintendent of Vanderbilt Clinic; Miss Edith Field, record librarian of Grasslands Hospital, Valhalla, N. Y.; Emanuel Hayt; Dr. E. M. Bluestone, director of Montefiore Hospital; Miss S. Margaret Gillam, director of the department of nutrition, New York Hospital, and James A. Hamilton, director of New Haven Hospital.

The program is intended for those familiar with the hospital field and does not offer a training course in hospital administration. It is expected to stimulate ideas and improvement in the management of hospitals.

Two lectures are given each morning from 9 to 10:30 o'clock and from 10:30 to 12. In the afternoon, field trips to selected hospitals demonstrating various features of hospital administration have been arranged.

The subjects of the round table discussions of the evening sessions include hospital-care insurance, hospital financing, personnel management, nursing service, medical records, diet therapy, community relationships and the hospital as an educational institution.

A similar program for hospital administrators on the Eastern seaboard is being held this summer at Duke University, North Carolina.

MEETINGS OF THE THIRD COMMISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE

THE third Commission of the International Society of Soil Science, concerned with the subject of soil microbiology, will hold meetings in New Brunswick, N. J., from August 30 to September 1, at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station and Rutgers University. Papers will be presented on three subjects. The program on August 30 will be concerned with the subject of "Legumes and Legume Bacteria," and reports will be given by the following: W. A. Albrecht, University of Missouri; F. E. Allison, United States Department of Agriculture; A. Demolon, Centre National de Recherches Agronomique, Versailles; J. Dufrenoy, University of Bordeaux; H. Katznelson, N. J. Agricultural Experiment Station; L. T. Leonard, United States Department of Agriculture; K. V. Thimann, Harvard University; H. G. Thornton (president of the commission), Rothamsted Experimental Station, England; W. W. Umbreit and P. W. Wilson, University of Wisconsin; A. I. Virtanen, Biochemical Institute, Finland; A. L. Whiting, the Urbana Laboratories, Illinois. The subject of "Microbiology of Soil Organic Matter" will be discussed by the following on the morning of August 31: Chr. Barthel and N. Bengtsson, Lantbrukshögskolan, Sweden; F. E. Clark and Charles Thom, United States Department of Agriculture; D. Fehér, Institute of Forestry, Hungary; H. Murata, Kagoshima Imperial College of Agriculture and Forestry, Japan; A. G. Norman, the Iowa State College; C. E. Skinner, University of Minnesota; S. C. Vandecaveye, the Washington State College; S. A. Waksman, N. J. Agricultural Experiment Station; J. Marszewska-Ziemiecka, the National Institute for Agricultural Research, Poland. Papers will be presented on the subject of "Azotobacter and Its Significance in Soil Processes" during the afternoon of August 31 by the following: G. Guittonneau, Institute National Agronomique, France; C. K. Horner and Dean Burk, United States Department of Agriculture; H. W. Reuszer, Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station; R. L. Starkey, N. J. Agricultural Experiment Station; M. Winnik and M. Goldberg, Mikveh-Israel Experimental Station, Palestine. A conference will be held on "Legume Inoculants" under the direction of A. W. Hofer, of the N. Y. (Geneva) Agricultural Experi-