

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS OF PHOTOGRAPHY

AN exhibition illustrating the first hundred years of photography is on view at the Science Museum, South Kensington. The exhibition, according to the London *Times*, has been arranged by the museum in collaboration with the Royal Photographic Society. It is in three sections—the first consisting of early photographs and apparatus; the second of photographs, drawn from the society's collection, illustrating the history and development of pictorial photography down to the present; and the third of the commercial and scientific applications of photography.

In the third section are exhibits illustrating photo-engraving; various methods of color photography; the making of aerial surveys; and the use of photography in astronomy, mineralogy and electrical research. One case shows the improvement which has taken place in the sending of press photographs by cable across the Atlantic between the primitive results of 1927 (when a crude outline effect was achieved) and those of 1934, 1936 and 1939. Radiography also figures largely in this section, with a life-size human skeleton in one corner, a number of medical x-ray photographs and a miscellaneous and amusing collection of others, among which the head and spine of a fish—a species of ray—appear as most astonishing gnome-like monsters.

The *Times* states that exhibits in the early historical section illustrate the massive character of some of the early photographic apparatus. In particular there are a dark-room tent of about 1853 which had to be trundled around on a little two-wheeled pushcart, and a wet-plate outfit of 1855, standing on a tripod and large enough to have served, at need, as a quite sizable dovecote. The display also includes relics of the two men whose work made 1839 so greatly notable as the starting-point of modern photography, Daguerre and Fox Talbot. The Fox Talbot exhibits are drawn from the collection of his apparatus and photographs presented to the museum by his granddaughter, Miss M. T. Talbot, who was present at the opening of the exhibition. Some of the Fox Talbot prints, in spite of the publicity his work has had, are quite unfamiliar. D. O. Hill, Mrs. Cameron and Roger Fenton are other early photographers who are well represented.

### FOREIGN MARKETS FOR MEDICINAL PRODUCTS OF THE UNITED STATES

ACCORDING to a world survey entitled "Foreign Markets for American Medicinal Products," made available by the Chemical Division of the Department of Commerce, the United States is one of the world's largest exporters of medicinal products, with shipments going forward regularly to more than a hundred foreign countries and trading areas.

Ten years ago when a similar survey was conducted, the United States was the largest exporter of medicinals and accounted for twenty per cent. of the import demand for such products. The present survey shows that although the United States exports approximately the same amount of medicinal products as ten years ago, it is now in the fourth place, following closely behind the United Kingdom and France. Germany is the principal exporter with sales almost double those of its nearest competitor.

The study deals at considerable length with the market for such products abroad, detailing the extent of the demand, local production, methods of distribution, advertising, branch factories, local packaging of imported bulk products, regulations, local preferences and other data.

An important point brought out is the changed character of the export trade of the United States. A decade ago practically all the medicinal and pharmaceutical products entering into foreign trade channels were packaged and ready for the ultimate consumer. Now many of these products are exported in bulk or in concentrated form, and are elaborated or packaged in the country of destination. Medicinal chemicals, for example, are elaborated and pressed into tablets or pills, and liquid products arriving in the country of destination in concentrated form are diluted with syrup, alcohol, water or other bulky ingredients before being packaged. These elaborating and packaging operations are carried out either in branch plants of the parent American companies or in local laboratories by license or other arrangements with the American brand or patent owners. This situation has been brought about by legislation enacted in various foreign countries, designed to stimulate the domestic medicinal and pharmaceutical industries.

A number of branch factories have been established abroad during the last ten years by American medicinal and pharmaceutical manufacturers, but the aggregate value of medicinal exports from the United States has been well maintained. Beginning with 1928 the value of exports of such products moved up somewhat, reaching a peak of \$21,322,500 in 1929. Following that year foreign demand declined sharply and exports reached the low of \$9,816,000 in 1933. From this low point, however, the total advanced steadily to approximate \$18,000,000 in the years 1937 and 1938.

### THE ROCHESTER ATHENAEUM AND MECHANICS INSTITUTE

THE Rochester Athenaeum and Mechanics Institute has been offered an anonymous gift of \$400,000 provided that \$600,000 additional can be raised for endowment purposes. The donor pointed out the long record of meritorious service of the institute to the