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

community as reason for the offer. The need for additional endowment is said to be one of the most pressing needs of the institute, the present endowment and trust funds amounting to $1,500,000 being entirely inadequate.

The following members of the Board of Directors have been appointed to a committee to make plans to raise the $600,000: James E. Gleason, *chairman;* Herbert W. Bromley, Dr. Albert K. Chapman, George H. Clark, M. Herbert Eisenhart, Dr. Mark Ellingson, Charles K. Flint, Edward A. Halbleib, Sol Heumann, P. Richard Jameson, Frank W. Moffett, Oscar H. Pieper, Herman Russell and Albert F. Sulzer.

Mr. Gleason in discussing the matter said that by the addition of a million dollars to the endowment funds a long step would be taken toward financial independence. Income from endowment has been steadily declining, and as tuition at the institute covers only about fifty per cent. of the cost of operation, the extension of its services makes additional support imperative.

The offer provides that the $600,000 to be raised must be secured by pledges on or before December 31, 1940. This does not necessarily mean that contributions must be made at once; pledges payable over periods as long as five years will be acceptable under the terms of the offer.

The institute was founded in 1829. It is Rochester's oldest educational institution, and during the past year has had a student body of nearly 3,400 day and evening school students. In the day school, instruction is offered to high-school and college graduates in the applied arts, publishing and printing, general home economics, food administration, retailing, photographic technology, construction, chemistry, electricity and mechanics. Over a hundred and forty courses are offered in the evening division for employed men and women. It has pioneered in the individualization of education, in the cooperative plan and in its counseling program.

BIOCHEMICAL RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

DR. ALEXANDER SILVERMAN, head of the department of chemistry in the University of Pittsburgh, announces the continuation of the biochemistry research project which has been subsidized by the Buhl Foundation of Pittsburgh. The personnel for 1939–40 follows: Max O. Schultze (Ph.D., University of Wisconsin), senior fellow; Herbert E. Longenecker (Ph.D., Pennsylvania State College), senior fellow; Theodore H. Clarke (Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh), senior fellow; Rade R. Musulin (Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh), senior fellow to September 1; Carl V. Smythe (Ph.D., University of California), senior fellow reporting September 1; Carter J. Harrer (B.S., University of Pittsburgh), research assistant; George W. Jack (B.S., Grove City College), research assistant; Mary L. Dodds (M.S., University of Pittsburgh), research assistant.

The grant covers researches on animal nutrition, tissue respiration and molecular structure. Dr. C. G. King, professor of biochemistry at the university, is director, and Dr. Gebhard Stegeman, professor of physical chemistry, is associate director.

To broaden the investigation which has been in progress for several years in the department of chemistry, additional funds have been provided by the Buhl Foundation, so that cooperative studies will be made with the departments of physics and biology and with the School of Medicine. The total available for the entire project is $60,000.

THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CANCER CONGRESS

THE third International Cancer Congress will meet at Atlantic City, N. J., from September 11 to 15. The program, which has now been issued, includes papers on both the research and clinical phases of cancer, by authors from the United States, Canada, Mexico, South America and Europe. The following grouping has been adopted; Biophysics, Chairman Dr. Gioacchino Failla; Genetics, Chairman Dr. Clarence C. Little; Experimental Pathology, Chairman Dr. William H. Woglom; General Pathology, Chairman Dr. Milton C. Winternitz; Surgery, Chairman Frank H. Lahey; Diagnostic Roentgenology, Chairman Dr. John D. Camp; Therapeutic Radiology, Chairman Dr. Ursus V. Portmann; Statistics and Education, Chairman Dr. Burton T. Simpson, and finally a General Section which will be conducted by the president of the congress, Dr. Francis Carter Wood, for papers which arrive too late for classification under the different specialties.

A number of innovations have been made in planning the sessions of the congress. One of these is the appointment of a number of vice-chairmen, so that when a chairman must be absent from his section there will be available an assistant who is familiar with the program and the speakers. It has been ruled that all papers must be read at the time printed in the program.

The facilities for projection and demonstration will be unusually complete. Through the generosity of two large foreign instrument houses projection apparatus will be available for full-size radiographic films. There will be also, in a special room, a high-power projection apparatus for microscopic preparations, which will make it possible for groups interested in the finer details of a paper to study at leisure the microscopic lesions while the writer demonstrates his points. The usual lanterns and projectors for films also will be continuously available.