

The field of precision instruments will include the latest types of temperature and pressure measuring devices. There will be a vibration proof potentiometer controller, a recorder controller pyrometer for throttling fuel heat and a new line of rectangular-case indicating recorders and controllers with nine-, ten- and twelve-inch charts for temperature and pressure. Other instruments of precision will include a machine to determine plasticity. Measurement by this instrument is said to provide an accurate index to changes in the material caused by different temperatures, addition of ingredients or fillers, breakdown action of catalysts, etc. A new recording viscosimeter offers a spiral drive thermometer, the first of its kind to be manufactured, which governs a constant speed temperature increase of the suspension to be measured.

One exhibit will display meters for measuring and integrating accurately the quantity of liquids passed through closed pipes—to permit knowledge of the cost of liquids metered, to facilitate control of the use of liquids and to assure accurate manufacture of products containing a liquid.

There will be a complete range of process equipment, including steam jacketed kettles and tanks, made from stainless steel, monel metal and pure nickel. Glass-lined steel equipment will be demonstrated, and especially acid-resistant units will be offered for high-pressure work.

#### THE TROPICAL FLOWER GARDEN OF THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

A NEW tropical flower garden in the main conservatories at the New York Botanical Garden will be opened to the public on the week-end of November 4. Members of the garden will attend a formal opening in a brief ceremony the preceding afternoon; on Saturday morning the public will have its first view of the completed garden, which, with the rest of the greenhouse, will be open daily without charge from 10 to 4.

Taking part in the ceremony will be Dr. William J. Robbins, director; Allyn R. Jennings, general superintendent of parks; Colonel Robert H. Montgomery, representing the board of managers of the garden, and Mrs. Elon Huntington Hooker, president of the advisory council.

The occasion will also mark the opening of the indoor floral displays for the 1939-40 season. These displays, in which from two to five thousand pots of flowering and foliage plants are used at a time, have brought nearly half a million people to the garden since the newly rebuilt conservatory range was opened less than a year ago.

The new tropical flower garden, which is one of fifteen units in the conservatory range, contains many plants with which travelers in the tropics are familiar, and also decorative plants which are rarely seen either in southern regions where they would grow outdoors or

in northern conservatories. A few are cultivated only at the New York Botanical Garden.

The tropical flower garden is the tenth specially planted house to be opened since the large greenhouse was rebuilt by the city during 1937 and 1938. First to be seen in their new quarters were the cacti and other succulent plants which are natives of the great deserts of the world. The Botanical Garden has more than 2,000 different kinds, the true cacti in one house, the other New World succulents (which are plants with fleshy leaves or stems) in another, and the succulents of the Old World in a third.

Last year at Christmas time a tropical rain forest house was opened, and adjoining it a tropical fern house, both naturalistically planted. A special house, which was opened in the spring, contains plants of the Aroid family, including the spectacular genus *Amorphophallus*, one of whose members bears the flower known as the largest in the world. Adjoining it is the aquatic house, where a specimen of the royal water-lily, *Victoria regia*, now is in bloom. Other houses, containing palms, economic plants, begonias and other subjects, are open to the public, although the planting arrangement in them is not yet complete.

#### REORGANIZATION OF LABORATORY DIRECTORS' CONFERENCE

A REORGANIZATION of the Conference of State Laboratory Directors was effected at its nineteenth annual meeting in Pittsburgh on October 16, when a constitution and by-laws were adopted changing the name and expanding the organization into a Conference of State and Provincial Public Health Laboratory Directors with full membership privileges limited to directors of official state and provincial public health laboratories. The committee on reorganization which proposed the constitutional changes was composed of the following members representing laboratories widely scattered geographically throughout the United States and Canada: E. M. Bramhall, Utah; L. F. Ey, Ohio; M. H. McCrady, Quebec; Dr. C. A. Perry, Maryland; Dr. E. S. Robinson, Massachusetts; Dr. T. F. Sellers, Georgia; Dr. H. J. Shaughnessy, Illinois; Dr. A. B. Wadsworth, New York, and Dr. Friend Lee Mickle, Connecticut, *chairman*.

Associate membership was made available to the responsible assistants of directors of state and provincial laboratories and to the directors and responsible assistants in municipal and other official public health laboratories in the two countries.

In the newly adopted constitution it is stated that the purposes and objects of the conference shall be to promote the development, improvement and effectiveness of public health laboratory service; to coordinate public health laboratory activities; to stimulate the interchange of experience among directors of official public health laboratories; to develop and maintain