

done. The third bomb was a delayed action one, and this I am glad to say has been safely removed before it exploded. It was found to be some 16 feet down and was about 500 pounds in weight. Since then I am glad to say we have not suffered, though several bombs have fallen to the south of us in the Old Deer Park.

I am hoping it may be possible to find accommodation for some of our rarer plants from the Palm House and Temperate House in some place of safety. We are also taking steps to move some of the Herbarium specimens, but with the indiscriminate bombing which is taking place, it is very difficult to find any place which may be safe from enemy attack.

I know that you and other kind friends in America will be very much distressed to hear how Kew has suffered from enemy action, and I much hope that we may be left in peace and that we shall suffer no further damage, as there is no sort of military objective anywhere in this part of the world.

Your sympathy and help are very much appreciated by all of us.

ENGINEERING DEFENSE TRAINING

DEAN S. C. HOLLISTER, of the College of Engineering, Cornell University, has been appointed regional adviser for the State of New York outside New York City on the new national program for Engineering Defense Training. Congress recently appropriated \$9,000,000 for special engineering courses at the college level, to be given at government expense. The objective is to train 30,000 students with technical backgrounds to meet future needs of both industry and government in carrying out the defense program.

According to the statement from the Office of Education in Washington, "Courses of study will be given by the colleges both for those able to devote their entire time to preparation for future defense jobs and for workers now employed who desire to fit themselves for more responsible assignments. All instruction will be of college grade equivalent to that given regular candidates for a degree, but the special courses, which will require from two to eight months of study, will concentrate upon training of immediate practical application to specific defense jobs. Classes will be held both at the engineering schools and in or near industrial plants for the benefit of part-time and evening students. The regular college teaching staffs will be supplemented by additional teachers including specially qualified men from the industries to be served."

Dean Hollister for several weeks has been in constant touch with state schools involved: Clarkson College of Technology, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Union College, Syracuse University, the University of Rochester and the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred, in addition to Cornell University. In this program, he acts as a liaison officer maintaining con-

tinual contact with defense industries, Army and Navy district offices, employment services and other sources of information on personnel needs, as well as with local engineering schools equipped to meet demands for training courses as they arise. He is keeping the Washington headquarters continually informed so that deficiencies in any one region may be met, if necessary, by training students in other places where facilities are available.

A survey of the needs of industries in Southern Tier counties of New York State, where courses might be offered by Cornell University, has been made by the College of Engineering. Courses will be set up as rapidly as possible.

THE SCIENCE CARAVANS OF THE GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION

ALFRED P. SLOAN, JR., chairman of General Motors Corporation, has announced the dedication of two science caravans "to the vital task of arousing the nation to the necessity of intensifying its research activities." He points out that "the hope of America, in time of emergency as in time of peace, lies in the retorts and test tubes of its laboratories." Both caravans will start within the next few weeks.

Mr. Sloan, in his announcement, writes:

Our decision to send forth the "New Parade of Progress" and the "New Previews of Progress" to spread the gospel of research is, we are convinced, eminently sound. Only a cursory glance at what is taking place in the world to-day is needed to impress on one the importance of constant search for new products and processes.

And new products and processes will be equally important to take up the slack of men, money and materials when our present emergency shall have ended. As a nation we should be spending ten—even one hundred times as much as we do for research.

The two General Motors shows, presented without charge to the public, will demonstrate not only what industrial research and engineering have accomplished, but also what may be expected from the laboratories of the future if America takes advantage of its opportunities.

The Parade of Progress will be presented out-of-doors, while the Previews of Progress is designed for indoor performances. Both will reproduce the highlights of the General Motors exhibits at the New York and San Francisco World's Fairs. They were designed and constructed under the general supervision of Dr. Charles F. Kettering, vice-president in charge of research, and will be sponsored by the Department of Public Relations, which is in charge of Vice-president Paul Garrett.

The Parade, with fifty young technicians, will go to the larger cities of the south; Previews of Progress, with a personnel of seven trained young men and de-