

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE HIGHLAND PARK ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN AT PITTSBURGH

THE city of Pittsburgh and the WPA have, according to *Museum News*, during the past five years invested together about \$500,000 in modernizing the Highland Park Zoological Garden. The exhibits have been doubled; and about 75 per cent. of the garden's 40 acres of land have been put into active use. Attendance has been greatly increased, Sunday crowds reaching above 30,000.

New bear dens of the barless type have been built, four of them cut into the natural cliff of the park. Native stone was used for floors and concrete for walls. Inside cages between the dens house the bears at night. Steel doors in these cages are arranged so that the animals can be transferred from one cage to another. Pools and stone piles have been arranged to lend an atmosphere of native habitat. Trees and shrubs have been planted in new top soil above and around the dens. The dens are 360 feet long and 60 feet wide; the moat, 13 feet wide and 15 feet deep. Other construction includes adaptation of the snake pit for display of badgers; an island of stone and hard shale inside a six-foot moat for raccoons; an island of sand and loam for prairie dogs; fenced, drained and graded paddocks for wild boar, elk, deer, water buffalo and antelope, with stone shelters and with mud wallows for the elk and buffalo; concrete pools with running water for water-fowl, and an isolation house for sick animals. Sewer and water lines have been constructed to serve these additional facilities.

Construction is under way on a flying cage 56 feet wide, 128 feet long and 60 feet high for birds; a smaller cage for birds of prey; five acres of paddocks in wooded land along the banks of ravines, and a monkey island 55 by 72 feet, with a 13-foot moat, for more than 100 monkeys. Also the main entrance of the garden has been improved and the North and South entrances are being reconstructed; turnstiles, guard houses and retaining walls are being built; walks and steps laid down, and flower gardens planted.

WORK OF THE COMMONWEALTH FUND

APPROPRIATIONS of approximately \$2,000,000 for philanthropic purposes are listed by the Commonwealth Fund in its report for the year ending September 30, 1940. A third of this amount was devoted to medical research and medical education, and nearly half was earmarked for other health services, including chiefly aid to rural health departments and rural hospitals.

Outlining the war-time policy of the fund, Barry C. Smith, general director, writes: "In such a time it is more necessary than ever to steer a middle course be-

tween underplanned and overplanned giving. Without any avoidable sacrifice of social momentum or long-term values, a foundation must do its share toward meeting the needs of the moment. To keep some sort of balance between these two ways of doing something for the welfare of mankind—the slow up-building of medicine and other social institutions, the quick relief of human suffering—is a major task of private philanthropy in war-time."

In accordance with this policy, gifts amounting to \$135,000 were made to meet special war needs through the American Red Cross, the Allied Relief Fund (now the British War Relief Society), the Finnish Relief Fund, the Harvard Medical School Epidemiological Commission to England and the assistance of English refugees.

Because of the war, the number of Britons studying in this country as Commonwealth Fund fellows has been cut from a normal quota of 65 to 16. Twelve of these are finishing a second year of work, having been appointed in 1939, and are subject to recall by the British, Australian or New Zealand Government. Four new appointees, all ineligible for military service on medical grounds, came to the United States at the beginning of the present college year.

The Child Guidance Council supported by the fund to promote mental health work for children in England has been even more active than in peace-time, British workers reporting that child guidance methods have proved their usefulness among children evacuated from London and other cities. The council has shared in a special appropriation made by the British Government for mental health work during the war.

Appropriations made in this and former years meet all or a part of the current cost of 36 medical research projects at sixteen different institutions. These are the Child Research Council of Denver; the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center; the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health; the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; the Memorial Hospital, New York; the Harvard Medical School; the House of the Good Samaritan, Boston; the Irvington House, Irvington, N. Y.; the Michigan Department of Health; the New York Hospital; the New York University College of Medicine; the University of Minnesota; the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine; the State Serum Institute, Copenhagen; Washington University; the School of Medicine of Western Reserve University and the School of Medicine of Yale University.

A five-year experiment in the control of tuberculosis in Berkshire County, Massachusetts, was completed in 1940. The fund threw its weight behind a general forward movement in local public health service and