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 between 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 upbuilding 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

the construction of small community hospitals in various states and continued to render services of various kinds to ten older institutions built since 1927. As a contribution to medical education, the fund gave fellowships for advanced study to seventeen teachers in medical schools or to junior staff physicians in teaching hospitals selected for appointment to medical faculties.

THE INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

THE Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma has approved the incorporation of an industrial research institute. Dr. Homer L. Dodge, dean of the Graduate School, who with President W. B. Bizzell, formulated the plans, recently visited and made a study of several research foundations. The institute will differ from others in that it will include not only the natural sciences and engineering, but also social sciences and commerce.

It plans to make available to industry the investigators and research facilities of the university. Smaller industrial concerns, unable to afford research laboratories and technicians, will be aided.

The institute will be a non-profit corporation and will be conducted without cost to the state. Arrangements for securing funds will be entered into with industrial companies and private individuals. The Board of Regents, therefore, acting through administrative officials of the university, will establish an agency to arrange with industrial concerns for fellowships and research projects and the use of equipment. Three fellowships, financed by individual corporations, are now in existence at the university, and more are expected to be added as the program expands. Patents taken out will be held by the institute, and all royalties received will be used for research.

Since plans have been in process of formation for several years, the institute will go into operation as soon as it is incorporated.

THE SCHOOL OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING OF CORNELL UNIVERSITY

CORNELL UNIVERSITY has received a gift of a new building for the School of Chemical Engineering, to be erected at a cost of $700,000. The donor is Franklin W. Olin, of Alton, Ill., a civil engineer graduate in 1886 and trustee of the university, who for many years has been president of the Western Cartridge Company and affiliated concerns. Mr. Olin presented the building as a memorial to his son, Franklin D. Olin, Jr., who received his M.E. degree from Cornell in 1912 and died in 1921. Construction will begin immediately, on a schedule calling for completion in October of this year. The plan contemplates similar buildings for the other three schools of civil, mechanical and electrical engineering, with a materials and metallurgy laboratory equipped to serve the entire college. These buildings will form a new quadrangle on the southern portion of the main university campus.

According to Dean S. C. Hollister,

> Olin Hall of Chemical Engineering will have unsurpassed facilities for training in this field. With more than 100,000 feet of floor space, the building will provide numerous laboratories of varying sizes, adapted both to undergraduate instruction and to graduate research. Occupying most of one wing will be an extensive three-story laboratory, enabling students to build and operate large-scale model plants, embracing all the equipment necessary for following through an entire chemical manufacturing process.
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> These facilities will give our students the means of studying chemical processes not only on a test-tube scale, but also on a basis so closely approximating commercial manufacture that they can readily determine economic as well as engineering factors in designing and operating full-scale plants.

Olin Hall will be an L-shaped structure with three stories above a basement. Both portions of the building will be 60 feet in depth. It will be of fireproof construction throughout, faced in part with native stone to harmonize with Myron Taylor and Willard Straight Halls, which are adjacent. Architects for the new building are Shreeve, Lamb and Harmon of New York City.

An unusual feature of the building is that the majority of the lecture rooms, class rooms and offices will be placed on the ground floor to avoid congestion on stairways. Three lecture rooms, accommodating respectively 300, 110 and 70 students, will be on this floor. There will be a single lecture room, seating 200, on the second floor. Throughout the building there will be numerous small laboratories for specialized instruction and research.

The new building is designed to accommodate approximately 450 undergraduates and a large number of graduate students. The School of Chemical Engineering, under a selective system of limited enrolment, now has 277 students, an increase of 119 in this field since the school was established in 1938.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

PROGRESS of scientific investigations carried out during the past year at the Smithsonian Institution was reported in January by Charles G. Abbot, secretary of the Board of Regents.

The Astrophysical Observatory has nearly completed the revision of results of measurements of the solar constant—a factor from which can be computed the amount of energy from the sun falling on the earth—for the past eighteen years.

By eliminating a season effect in the cycles of solar variation Dr. Abbot himself has found a closer corre-