

true for even simple molecules, for, knowing only the two gases oxygen and hydrogen, who could have predicted the properties of the water molecules formed by a certain combination of these gases? It is obvious that as new structures are formed new properties characteristic of these structures are evolved. I be-

lieve that the work on viruses has provided us with new reasons for considering that life as we know it owes its existence to a specific state of matter and that the principle of the vital phenomenon does not come into existence suddenly but is inherent in all matter.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

EXPEDITIONS SENT OUT BY THE U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM

TWELVE scientific expeditions were conducted by members of the staff of the U. S. National Museum during the past fiscal year. They were for a variety of purposes such as collecting animals of many kinds, fossils and geological specimens and archeological materials, many of which will serve as reference types for American scientists. These expeditions are described in the report of Dr. Alexander Wetmore, assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, who is in charge of the museum.

One was an anthropological survey in Russia and Siberia by Dr. Aleš Hrdlička, curator of physical anthropology, to study remains of peoples who may have been closely related to the ancestors of the American Indians. The red men are generally believed to have been neolithic Asiatic peoples who entered North America by way of Alaska.

The eastward extension of Pueblo Indian influences into Kansas was studied by Dr. Waldo R. Wedel, of the museum staff. The builders of the great "apartment houses" of the Southwest are popularly supposed to have been confined to that part of the continent. Actually small buildings on the Pueblo model are found extending into the Great Plains area although the exact relationships between their builders and the southwesterners still remain to be found.

Dr. W. F. Foshag, curator of physical and chemical geology, collected specimens of rare minerals in Mexican mines. Dr. G. A. Cooper, with Dr. Josiah Bridge, of the U. S. Geological Survey, journeyed from Nevada to north-central Indiana in search of invertebrate fossils of the Devonian and Ordovician periods in the history of the earth. They collected many types of fossils new to the collections, including some new to science.

Dr. C. W. Gilmore, curator of vertebrate paleontology, assisted in a survey of the Big Bend region of Texas, which has been proposed for a national park. The area, he found, gives considerable promise of yielding dinosaur remains.

Dr. Leonard P. Schultz, curator of fishes, brought back a collection of about 14,000 fishes, together with mollusks, echinoderms, worms, other marine invertebrates, reptiles, birds, mammals and plants from the

Phoenix and Samoan Islands. He served as naturalist on a U. S. naval expedition.

As in past years, Captain Robert A. Bartlett, who has long served as a collaborator of the museum, brought valuable specimens from Greenland waters. Among these this year was a collection of Arctic plants.

There were 2,505,171 visitors to the various buildings during the year. This is an increase of more than a quarter of a million over the year before.

THE NEW SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

ACCORDING to the *Michigan University Record*, the reorganization of the work in hygiene, public health and preventive medicine has been for some time under discussion. As early as August, 1939, on recommendation of the Division of Health Sciences, the regents authorized, when it should become possible, the establishment of an independent unit of the university to carry on this type of activity. It may now be announced that the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, of Battle Creek, and the Rockefeller Foundation, of New York, have each agreed to provide \$500,000 for the establishment of the new school, not more than one half of the total sum of \$1,000,000 to be available for site, building and equipment, and the remainder to be used over a ten-year period for its initial expenses of operation. The regents in December accepted the proffer of these sums, subject to the conditions attached, which involve both the method of applying the funds, as outlined above, and the formulation of a plan of organization satisfactory to the two foundations and the university. While progress has been made upon the scheme of organization, it has not yet reached the stage at which a detailed statement can be made public.

The long-continued interest of the Rockefeller Foundation in public health is well known. The trustees of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation are led to participate in the enterprise because of their conviction that public health education is important and a strong school of public health is essential to the success of the Michigan Community Health Project. The university is expected to use its present resources for graduate training in public health and to make certain further provisions for this work in the future.