The lecture room, where discourses have been heard for a century from almost all the leaders of British surgery, is now a charred ruin. The main block of the library remains with books still on the shelves, but its state is too dangerous for use. Nearly ninety thousand volumes had been sent to various parts of the country after damage by blasts from a previous raid. The transfer was aided by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. The principal treasures of the library had been sent away before the outbreak of the war. But the museum, which possessed treasures such as no other country could boast, has suffered irreparable loss, although many of the most valuable specimens were saved by having been placed in a tunnel below the basement surrounded with sand. The basement covers a wide area, and most of it escaped the fire that occurred. Many rooms, cellars and tunnels connected with it, which had been reinforced, were used for other specimens, which were not damaged. The important college records and historical documents had been sent away. But the working records dealing with the specimens, saved in the basement and subbasement, and the records of pathologic specimens presented to the college during the last few years were destroyed. The preservation of copies of the museum catalogues had been carefully considered and insured. All were saved except the catalogue of part of the pathologic section and that of the curio room, but nearly all the specimens in this room are described in the "Guide to Surgical Instruments and Objects in the Historical Series." Of the famous Hunterian collection, which forms the basis of the museum, no fewer than 3,750 specimens have been saved. Of the collections illustrating human anatomy only 20 specimens have been saved. Of 5,200 mammalian specimens illustrating comparative osteology only 20 or 30 remain and hardly any of 3,000 avian specimens or of the large amount of amphibian, reptile and aquatic material. The two rooms built in the middle of the last century, containing physiologic and comparative anatomy specimens, have been blasted away. Much anthropologic material has been destroyed, including the fine collection of primitive Tasmanian and Australian skulls. The greater part of the large collection of instruments is safe and can be restored. Among these are the instruments of Lister and of Moynihan, the Chinese and Japanese collections and the series illustrating the evolution of anesthetic apparatus. Though irreparable loss has been suffered, the destruction is not so great as was at first feared. Enough has been saved for the basis of a new museum, which will continue the Hunter tradition, which has always been fundamental in the college.

EXPEDITIONS OF THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

FOR the fifth consecutive season, Dr. Walter Granger, curator of fossil mammals at the American Museum of Natural History, will join a fossil-hunting expedition into the Big Badlands of South Dakota this summer. Dr. Granger left New York on July 25 for the headquarters of the expedition in Rapid City, S. D., where he will join Albert Thomson and Dr. Edwin H. Colbert, of the department of paleontology, who have been at work since early July. The greater part of the field work will be concentrated in the northwestern part of the state. From this region, one of the richest fossil beds in the world, now set apart as a National Monument, the museum has obtained since its first expedition there in 1892, valuable remains of prehistoric animals that lived in the Oligocene period.

Two unusual specimens, obtained last summer through the cooperation of the Carter County Geological Society of Ekalaka, Mont., are now being studied. One is a giant rodent larger than the present-day beaver from the uppermost Cretaceous of southeastern Montana, and the skull of a dinosaur of a new and distinct genus, but similar to the smaller Troödon of earlier Cretaceous formations.

The first expedition to be conducted partly on skiis for the museum is now being made by Peter E. Crow, of Cornell University, and Gilbert C. Anthony, of Dartmouth College, with the cooperation of the Marquis d'Albizzi, of Banff, Canada. The main object of this expedition is to make a representative collection of large and small mammals around the periphery of the Columbia Ice Field, the largest south of Alaska. With the Marquis d'Albizzi, Mr. Anthony will explore as great an area as weather conditions will permit, along the fringes of the ice field, on skiis, while Mr. Crow, in the museum's station wagon, will collect mammals just off this region. The expedition will return to New York about September 1.

Mr. Michael Lerner, trustee of the museum, and Mrs. Lerner plan a hunting trip in the Yukon Territory. It is hoped to obtain two complete specimens of the Osborn caribou for a group in the North American Mammal Hall, now under construction. This caribou was first scientifically described by the late Professor Henry Fairfield Osborn, then president of the museum.

Dr. Harry L. Shapiro, associate curator of physical anthropology, is conducting a study of the Eskimos at Point Hope, Alaska. He is giving special attention to the physical anthropology of the group as a follow-up to the discoveries made last year by Dr. Froelich G. Rainey, who uncovered a prehistoric city of unknown culture on the great gravel spit of Point Hope. Dr. Rainey and Dr. Shapiro are continuing the excavation of the burial grounds.

AWARD TO THE BAUSCH AND LOMB OPTICAL COMPANY

THE U. S. Navy Department officially raised the flag of the Bureau of Ordnance and the Navy "E" pennant over the Bausch and Lomb Optical Company on August 2 "in recognition of outstanding performance in the production of ordnance materials."