

Museum attendance for the year was 1,450,685, exceeding the number of visitors in the previous year by more than 40,000. It is pointed out that extramural educational activities, conducted by the Raymond Foundation and the N. W. Harris Public School Extension, brought the total number directly reached by museum activities up to nearly 2,200,000. Millions of others received scientific information from the museum through indirect channels such as radio, publications and press reports.

Detailed reports are given of the activities of the four scientific departments—anthropology, botany, geology and zoology; and of all other divisions of the museum, educational, administrative, public service, maintenance, library, etc. The report contains also a complete membership list.

### U. S. CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS

THE U. S. Civil Service Commission reports that the Government continues its search for specialists in all branches of industry and business. The Federal Civil Service examination for industrial specialist, announced on July 7, has been amended to remain open for receipt of applications until further notice. The National Defense Program needs men with experience in one or more of the following fields: Iron and steel, non-ferrous metals, machine tools, ordnance, aircraft, marine and automotive equipment, railroad repair shops, radio and other electrical equipment, supplies and apparatus, textiles, forest products, paper, printing and publishing, chemicals and allied products, plastics, petroleum and coal products, rubber products, stone, clay and glass products, leather and its manufactures and food and kindred products. Salaries range from \$2,600 to \$5,600 in the various grades. No written examination is given.

Those trained in engineering are again called upon for government service. An examination will be given for engineering aids in two fields: photogrammetry

and topography. Salaries range from \$1,620 to \$2,600 a year. Persons are particularly needed in the three lower grades (paying \$1,620 to \$2,000) in the field of photogrammetry. A written test will not be given but competitors will be rated on their education and experience. Although the completion of 14 units of high-school study is a basic requirement, applicants may substitute an additional six months' engineering experience. In addition they must have had responsible civil engineering experience, including some work in the optional branch selected.

To secure economists in all branches of economics for government service the commission announces an examination for positions paying from \$2,600 to \$5,600 a year. Applications will be accepted until further notice and will be rated as soon as practicable after receipt. Those who filed applications for the general economist examination announced in September, 1940, and who received eligible ratings need not file another application. However, if they wish to apply for a higher position, they should file a new application. Superintendents of building maintenance are needed by the Federal Works Agency. Positions are to be filled in public housing projects and public buildings in various sections of the country. The salaries range from \$2,600 to \$3,800 a year. Applications must be filed not later than August 26, 1941. A written test will not be given, but applicants must show experience of the proper scope and responsibility. To qualify as junior superintendent (\$2,600 a year) four years of experience is required; for the superintendent positions (\$3,200 a year) six years; and for the senior superintendent (\$3,800 a year) nine years. Applicants for these positions must not have passed their fifty-fifth birthday.

Further information and application forms for these examinations can be obtained at any first- or second-class post office or from the Civil Service Commission in Washington.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. GEORGE D. BIRKHOFF, Perkins professor of mathematics at Harvard University, has been elected an honorary member of the London Mathematical Society.

The degree of doctor of science has been conferred by McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, on Dr. Donald Church Balfour, director of the Mayo Foundation and past-president of the American College of Surgeons.

THE honorary degree of doctor of science was awarded at the commencement exercises of the University of Maryland to Dr. Wortley F. Rudd, dean of

the School of Pharmacy of the Medical College of Virginia.

SIR ROBERT ROBINSON, Waynflete professor of chemistry at the University of Oxford, was awarded on August 6 the first Paracelsus Gold Medal of the Swiss Society of Chemistry.

PROFESSOR EMIL ABDERHALDEN, professor of physiology in the University of Halle, has been made an honorary member of the Society of Physics and Natural History of Geneva.

*Nature* states that Griffith Brewer has been elected president of the Royal Aeronautical Society for the