

works apprentice who has attained a sufficiently high standard in theoretical study, and possibly senior men from the industry and the forces who desire refresher courses.

THE CHICAGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

THE Chicago Natural History Museum has been officially known by that name only for the past month, since the granting of an amended charter by the Secretary of State at Springfield changed the name of what was formerly Field Museum of Natural History. A statement made by Orr Goodson, acting director, reads in part:

The museum's activities during 1943 continued to be tied in with the war effort. The institution's photographic collections and informational sources were placed at the disposal of the army, navy and other government agencies, and many members of the staff served as consultants on geographic and scientific subjects at the request of government bureaus. Some members of the staff contributed the information for manuals used by soldiers and sailors in far-off lands. For the public, special exhibits pertaining to some of the more important theaters of the war were arranged, and a special series of lectures, "Backgrounds of the War," was presented. To the degree that conditions permitted, all normal museum activities were continued. Attendance was nearly normal, with more than one million visitors received.

The opening of a new hall called "Indian America," devoted to archeology of the New World, was a major event of 1943. This hall represents a radically improved technique in anthropological exhibition methods, characterized by sparsity of labels and brevity of those which are used, the use of especially adapted fluorescent lighting, a liberal use of gay colors, and the inauguration of completely new ideas of exhibition, in which a graphic bird's-eye view of ancient cultures is substituted for large collections of artifacts. Despite shortages of personnel and of materials for construction, many other important new exhibits were installed in all departments of the museum—anthropology, botany, geology and zoology.

The following changes have occurred in the regular staff of the museum: Clifford C. Gregg, director, on leave for service with the army, has been promoted from the rank of lieutenant-colonel to colonel. Dr. C. Martin Wilbur, curator of Chinese archeology and ethnology, has been granted leave of absence to join the staff of the Office of Strategic Services, Washington, D. C. Dr. Julian A. Steyermark, assistant curator of the herbarium, and Llewelyn Williams, curator of economic botany, have been granted leave of absence to engage in foreign missions for the Board of Economic Warfare of the United States Government.

George A. Quimby was confirmed in his appointment as curator of North American archeology; Gustav Oscar Dalstrom was appointed artist in the department of anthropology; Dr. Alfred E. Emerson,

Dr. Charles H. Seevers and Alex K. Wyatt were appointed research associates in entomology; Mrs. Roberta Cramer and Miss Emma Neve were appointed lecturers. After a year in service in Africa with the American Field Service, Bert E. Grove, wounded, was returned home, and rejoined the staff as lecturer. Alfred C. Weed, curator of fishes for twenty-two years, retired.

The honor roll of museum employees and trustees now engaged in war services numbers thirty-nine men and women.

THE AMERICAN STANDARDS ASSOCIATION

THE American Standards Association, a federation of national groups dealing with standardization, through which government, industry, labor and the consumer work together to develop mutually satisfactory national standards and which acts as the authoritative channel for international cooperation in standardization work, has announced the publication of a new list of standards. There are more than 600 standards listed, of which 64 have been approved or revised since the last price list was printed in April. The standards cover specifications for materials, methods of tests, dimensions, definitions of technical terms, procedures, etc.

One important phase of the work built up during the twenty-five years that the association has been in existence is in the field of safety engineering. The new list includes ninety-five safety standards. Standards are constantly revised to keep up with advances in industrial methods.

Since the war, the association has been working very closely with government agencies and with the Armed Services to provide specifications for certain of the materials necessary to the war effort. Because these standards are developed through an accelerated procedure, they are designated as American War Standards. These are listed separately, and to date there are forty already completed and many more under development. These war standards have been produced in the field of safety work, machine tools, quality control, photography and radio, just to mention a few. Every government order is based on specifications: standards are used to accelerate production, conserve materials, maintain a balance between quality and price control, simplify inspection, contracting and subcontracting. All are designed to relieve shortages of time, material and man-power.

In each case, the standards approved represent general agreement on the part of maker, seller and user groups as to the best current industrial practice. More than six hundred organizations are taking part in this work.

The complete list of American standards should serve as valuable reference material to engineers, manufacturers, purchasing agents, etc. It will be

sent free of charge to any one interested in the work. Requests should be addressed to the American Standards Association, 29 West 39th St., New York 18, N. Y.

MEETING OF BOTANISTS IN CHICAGO

ACCORDING to a statement received from Dr. Scott V. Eaton, of the University of Chicago, there existed among botanists of the general Chicago region considerable sentiment in favor of holding an informal meeting during the Christmas holidays. Arrangements for such a gathering were made by the departments of botany of Northwestern University and the University of Chicago. The meeting was held at Chicago, on December 29 and 30. Announcements and programs were sent to the departments of botany or biology of the colleges and universities of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri and eastern Nebraska.

Three sessions for the reading of invitation papers were held at the Chicago Academy of Sciences. The facilities provided by the academy were very much appreciated. On the morning of December 29, L. H. Tiffany was chairman of the program, and the speakers included Walter F. Loehwing, the State University of Iowa; Margery C. Carlson, Northwestern University; Neil E. Stevens, University of Illinois; Charles E. Olmsted, the University of Chicago, and O. C. Durham, Abbott Laboratories. The chairman on Thursday morning was Dr. John T. Buchholz, of the University of Illinois, and the speakers were Ralph E. Cleland, Indiana University; Leo R. Tehon, Illinois State Natural History Survey, and Ralph O. Freeland, Northwestern University. At the concluding session on Thursday afternoon John M. Beal, of the University of Chicago, presided, and those who took part were George S. Bryan, the University of Wisconsin; Kenneth E. Damann, Water Purification Division of Chicago, and Wendell R. Mullison, Purdue University.

The attendance at the sessions ranged from forty-five to seventy-four. The lateness of announcing the meeting and travel uncertainties, especially because of the threatened railroad strike, reduced the number of persons present. Also a number wrote that they could not attend because of their war teaching programs.

On Wednesday evening an informal dinner was held at the Webster Hotel with an attendance of fifty-three. Dr. Charles A. Shull, of the University of Chicago, was toastmaster, and after the dinner he called on several persons for brief after-dinner speeches.

The meeting was characterized by good fellowship and friendly visiting. All present seemed very glad of the opportunity of again attending a scientific meeting. It is hoped that even if the war has not

yet ended the national officers of the various botanical societies will find it possible to organize meetings, either national or regional, for the next Christmas holidays.

BERMUDA BIOLOGICAL STATION FOR RESEARCH

THE annual meeting of the corporation and a meeting of the trustees of the Bermuda Biological Station for Research, Inc., were held in New York City on December 18.

Officers elected for 1944 were: *President*, Columbus Iselin; *Vice-president*, A. G. Huntsman; *Treasurer*, Ross G. Harrison; *Secretary*, John H. Welsh.

Trustees elected to the class retiring in 1947 were: C. P. Curtis, Jr., P. S. Galtsoff, E. N. Harvey, Columbus Iselin, Stanley Kemp and Daniel Merriman.

The main building and cottages which were leased to the U. S. Army Engineers as a temporary hospital were vacated in June on the completion of the permanent Base Hospital. Dr. Hilary B. Moore, acting as resident custodian, is now occupying the director's cottage and three of the others are rented. Books have been removed from storage and the library has been placed in order.

The former director, Dr. J. F. G. Wheeler, has left Bermuda to take up a new position as fisheries director for the Island of Mauritius. The period of his directorship extended from 1932 to 1941. During this time there were over two hundred investigators who made visits of some length at the station. Eighteen of these were from England, France, Canada and Belgium. There were 138 published contributions covering a wide range of subjects of biological and oceanographic interest. While the main financial support of the station for this period came from income on investments of the original Rockefeller Foundation grant, there was additional support for maintenance and operation from the Bermuda Government of approximately \$15,000. During the years 1937-41 the station also received \$10,000 through the Royal Society, London, in support of oceanographic investigations. This was in addition to furnishing the research vessel *Culver*.

During the past year there was a net gain of income over expenses amounting to \$10,368. Present total assets amount to \$304,936. Approximately one third of this is invested in the Bermuda property and the remainder in income-yielding securities.

The location of the station is one of the best in Bermuda in spite of military developments in that region, the buildings are in an excellent state of repair, and the vicinity of Bermuda still remains a uniquely favorable place for investigating the biology, physics and chemistry of the open North Atlantic, especially in deep water. It is the expectation of the trustees that the station will reopen as soon as the progress of the war allows.