

ards Association can extend its exchange of information and material regarding proposed and existing standards with the Latin-American standardizing organization and provide an increasingly thorough channel through which inter-American standardization can be developed.

THE PUBLIC SCIENCE CENTER AT HOUSTON, TEXAS

THE Houston, Texas, Parks and Recreation Department has announced the establishment of a post-war Public Science Center, in Hermann Park, with preserves in Memorial Park. Plans include, according to *Museum News*, the erection of a museum of science at a cost of \$4,000,000, an aquarium and a planetarium each to cost \$600,000, the complete replanning of the Zoological Park at a cost of \$500,000, and a botanical garden, arboretum and wild-life sanctuary, for which the sum of \$300,000 will be expended.

It is expected that funds for the project will be raised largely by public subscription. A finance committee of civic leaders has been set up. According to the statement:

Steps toward the establishment of the science center were taken in the summer of 1943 by the new director of the Parks and Recreation Department, C. C. Fleming. Mr. Fleming appointed Victor A. Greulach, associate professor of biology at the University of Houston, who is also acting director of the Museum of Natural History, to develop a natural history program for the department. A Nature Committee was formed as an advisory planning group. Its eleven members are representatives of the Outdoor Nature Club, Boys and Girls Scouts, public and private schools, the university, and other organizations. The committee put into immediate effect a natural history program for 1943, began to lay plans for a larger program in 1944, and took the first steps toward the establishment of the center.

Leadership and instruction were provided in Houston playgrounds. A Nature Guide School was conducted during July and August for playground directors and others interested. A nature trail was prepared in Hermann Park, and several playgrounds made their own nature trails. Steps were taken toward the establishment of a community forest. Ten volunteer experienced curators, under the direction of Valentine Gesner, curator of the Museum of Natural History, redecorated the museum and rearranged its collections and exhibits.

On November 19, 20 and 21 the first annual nature fair was held to call attention to the work of the department. Exhibits were nature collections and craft work by playground and school children, together with material from city and state organizations interested in conservation and natural history. There were motion pictures, woodcraft demonstrations and campfire singing. It is estimated that twenty to thirty thousand visitors were in attendance.

The program will be much enlarged in 1944. Nature

trails and trailside museums are to be constructed in all the principal parks. The nature-guide school will become a year-round School of Natural History, affiliated with the university for college credit. The natural history book collection of the public library will be expanded.

THE BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN

THE thirty-third annual report of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden calls attention to the various ways in which the garden has assisted in the war program during the past year. As part of this service are mentioned the courses in victory gardening and public lectures on textiles and on canning and preserving; conservatory exhibits of rubber-yielding, fiber and beverage plants; cooperation with the New York Victory Garden Council and the Civilian Defense Victory Organization by consultation and lectures; demonstration victory gardens planted in a conspicuous place in the garden and viewed by thousands of visitors each week; the showing of sound films on victory gardening; a war-bond rally; the sale of defense stamps and bonds in the garden on Sundays throughout the summer; the gift of a hundred conservatory plants to the Brooklyn Navy Yard; eighty-two trees and shrubs for beautifying the grounds of the Halloran General Hospital, Staten Island; and flowers and plants for other metropolitan hospitals. More than 1,300,000 packets of seed were distributed to school children.

Attendance on the grounds was 1,465,790—slightly less than that of last year, but the attendance at the conservatories—152,578—was much greater than for many years. The combined attendance at classes and lectures for children and adults was 96,672, a considerable increase over that of last year.

Reports on research in disease resistance in the cereal grains and in the chestnut tree, on flower structure in the dicotyledons, on the flora of Western Ecuador and Peru, on North American and South American Cyperaceae and on the physiological effect of various substitute teas are included.

THE AMERICAN PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

THE thirty-fifth annual meeting and war conference of the American Phytopathological Society was held at the Neil House, Columbus, Ohio, from December 4 to 6, 1943. This annual meeting and war conference facilitated an exchange of ideas, facts and methods by members from various laboratories, universities, experiment stations and commercial concerns in North America. Comments indicate that this was one of the better meetings, as measured by the interest in the papers presented and discussions during the entire three-day meeting. The attendance was approximately 200. Fifty-eight papers reporting the results of orig-