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.
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> 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.
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> 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.
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> 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-

inal research were presented in sections entitled "Preventive Fungicides," "Fungous Diseases and Growth Response," "Bacterial and Virus Diseases," "Soil and Seed Treatments" and "Eradicant Sprays."

In addition to these papers, there were round-table conferences. The subjects included were "The Emergency Plant Disease Prevention Program," "Vegetable Seed-borne Diseases," "War Committee Activities and Plans," "Copper and Organic Fungicides," "Extension Work in Plant Pathology" and "Cooperative Seed Treatment Tests." Interest in these conferences was high, with most members in attendance contributing to the discussions.

Officers of the society for 1944 are:

President, J. J. Christensen, University Farm, St. Paul 8, Minn.

Vice-president, J. B. Kendrick, University Farm, Davis, Calif.

Secretary, C. C. Allison, the Ohio State University, Columbus 10, Ohio.

Treasurer, R. M. Caldwell, Purdue Agricultural Experiment Station, West Lafayette, Ind.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. WILLIAM DAVID COOLIDGE, vice-president and director of research for the General Electric Company, and Peter Kapitza, director of the Institute for Physical Problems of the Academy of Sciences, U. S. S. R., have been awarded Franklin Medals for 1944 by the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia. The award to Dr. Coolidge is "in recognition of his scientific discoveries, which have profoundly affected the welfare of humanity, especially in the field of the manufacture of ductile tungsten and in the field of improved apparatus for the production and control of x-rays." The award to Dr. Kapitza is in recognition of the invention of a method of producing extraordinarily high magnetic fields, many times greater than were previously thought possible, and the development of ingenious methods for making magnetic measurements of various kinds upon small pieces of matter exposed for a small fraction of a second to such fields. He also designed and constructed a machine for making liquid air and liquid hydrogen which is much more efficient than any machine yet developed. The medals will be presented at the annual Medal Day ceremonies to be held at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia on April 19.

THE first awards of the Civilian Medals for Merit, in recognition of "exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services," were presented on March 28 on behalf of the Government by Secretary of State Cordell Hull, chairman of the Medal for Merit Board. Those receiving the awards were John C. Garand, head engineer of the U. S. Army Ordnance Department, in recognition of his development of the rapid fire Army rifle which bears his name, and to Dr. Albert Hoyt Taylor, chief physicist of the Naval Research Laboratory, in recognition of his work which resulted in the discovery and development of radar.

AT a ceremony held at the University of Pennsylvania Club in New York City on March 31 the annual William Guggenheim honor cup was presented to Dr. Stuart Mudd, professor of bacteriology at the university, for his work in developing methods of drying blood plasma.

IT is reported in the *Journal* of the American Medical Association that Dr. Wallace E. Herrell, assistant professor of medicine at the University of Minnesota Graduate School, Rochester, has been presented in recognition of his work on penicillin with the distinguished service key of the Rochester Junior Chamber of Commerce for "outstanding service in 1943."

JUNIUS DAVID EDWARDS, assistant director of research of the Aluminum Research Laboratories, was recently named recipient of the Pittsburgh Award by the Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society "in recognition of his distinguished service to chemistry, through his fundamental contributions in the fields of gas chemistry, the chemical and physical metallurgy of aluminum and aluminum paint, and the practical application of these developments for the betterment of mankind through his activities as inventor, author and editor."

DR. GEORGE C. DUNHAM, director of laboratories of the Army Medical School at Washington, executive vice-president of the Institute of Inter-American Affairs and assistant coordinator in charge of the department of basic economy, has been awarded the Southern Cross by the Brazilian Government.

DR. ARTHUR C. COPE, associate professor of chemistry at Columbia University, will receive the Award in Pure Chemistry of $1,000 for 1944 of the American Chemical Society in recognition of "outstanding research in organic chemistry," especially in the field of plastics and drugs. The prize, which is provided by Alpha Chi Sigma, was founded in 1931 by the late A. C. Langmuir to encourage fundamental research by young chemists working in North America.

AT its fiftieth anniversary convocation the Illinois Institute of Technology conferred the honorary doctorate of engineering on Dr. Willard H. Dow, president of the Dow Chemical Company; on Dr. James A. Rafferty, president of the Carbide and Carbon Chemi-