SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

DANISH EXHIBIT AT THE CHICAGO MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY

WORD has been received from Dr. Max Henius, of Chicago, that the Ways and Means Committee of the Danish government has approved the expenditure of fifty thousand kroner for exhibits for the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. These exhibits are to portray the contributions of Danish scientists to world progress. Dr. Henius, who has been director of the Wahl-Henius Institute in Chicago for many years, has already secured a large operating model of a brewery for the museum. He has also been very active in the establishment of the Dan-American Archives, which are a gift of the American people to the people of Denmark.

The exhibits from Denmark will consist of originals and replicas of the apparatus used by Denmark's great scientists and engineers from Tycho Brahe in the sixteenth century to Knudsen, Poulsen and Bohr—Denmark's leaders in modern science. Tycho Brahe was one of the first great observers of the motions of the sun, moon, stars and planets. The observatories which he built and the instruments which he devised form one of the most precious heritages of modern astronomy. A model of his great observatory at Uraniborg as well as models of his instruments will form part of this exhibit.

It is also fitting that Chicago, the home for so long of Dr. Albert A. Michelson, whose measurements of light won him the Nobel prize, should receive from Denmark examples of the work of Ole Römer. Römer invented the transit circle and by his measurements of the light from Jupiter he was able to pronounce for the first time that light traveled at a definite speed and not at an infinite speed as had been supposed. Römer in 1676 estimated the speed of light at 192,000 miles a second and Michelson in 1926 corrected this to approximately 186,000.

In the field of electricity Hans Christian Oersted ranks with Michael Faraday. His discovery of electromagnetism forms, together with Faraday's discovery of electromagnetic induction, the foundation of the age of electric power. During his great career Oersted founded both the Danish Society for the Propagation of Science and the Polytechnic Institute. Replicas of his original apparatus, of his electromagnet, and a copy of his essay on his great discovery will form part of the Danish gift to the Museum of Science and Industry. A bronze tablet commemorating the centenary of Oersted's discovery of electromagnetism has already been given to the museum by Dr. Neils C. Oatved, of Detroit, Michigan.

Among these exhibits will also be included an early model and a modern telegraphone, the invention of the Danish scientist Waldemar Poulsen. The telegraphone, which has recently come into use again in Europe for recording telephone messages when the party called is absent, is a device which records sound on an iron wire. Poulsen's principal contribution to scientific progress which will be shown among this group of exhibits was his production in 1903 of an oscillator which made continuous radio waves possible.

No exhibition of the work of Danish scientists would be complete without that of Niels Bohr. Although the atomic theory has changed since Bohr received the Nobel Prize for his work, the rise of atomic physics dates back to him and every new discovery in the field serves to emphasize the task that Bohr performed in directing the thinking of scientists all over the world along these lines. Hence the Museum of Science and Industry has asked that the Danish government include the work of Bohr in this gift of exhibits.

The exhibits from Denmark will be housed temporarily in the Hall of Science of A Century of Progress. Although the Museum of Science and Industry will be opened to the public in May, 1933, the decision has been made to loan the Danish exhibits to A Century of Progress for six months before placing them permanently in the museum.

CORRESPONDENT

THE HERBARIUM OF W. W. ASHE

THE University of North Carolina has secured the W. W. Ashe Herbarium, a collection very valuable for its large number of type specimens from the southeastern states. William Willard Ashe (1872–1932), a graduate of the University of North Carolina and Cornell University, was the first forester employed by the state of North Carolina. After eighteen years in forestry service for North Carolina he spent twenty-three years in the U. S. Forest Service. He was a keen observer and the qualities that carried him far in his vocation of forestry also made him an important systematic botanist. He is credited with 179 scientific papers, about one third of them in systematic botany. In these he published 510 new botanical names (including species, varieties and forms).

The acquisition of the Ashe Herbarium by the University of North Carolina was made possible through the generosity of Mr. George Watts Hill, of Durham, N. C. Most of it is unmounted; but Mr. Hill's gift made possible not only the purchase of the plants, but the cost of mounting them and the purchase of suitable herbarium cases. To assist in assembling and mounting the herbarium, the university has secured