

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

HISTORIC SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS

AN appeal for further space for the now overcrowded collection of historic scientific instruments under his charge was made on October 25 by Dr. R. T. Gunther in his inaugural address as reader in the history of science at Oxford. He said according to the report in *The Times*:

It had been his high privilege and great happiness to have been allowed during the last ten years to assemble in the historic home of all the natural sciences in Oxford collections which were acknowledged to be of unique historic value to the world, and particularly to that university. If space in the Old Ashmolean building had not then been available, the greater part of those collections would certainly not have come to Oxford; some would have gone overseas, much would have been lost.

His work of preservation had now been partially rewarded by the offer of the most noble and appropriate scientific gift of historic interest that any science museum in England could be offered. He referred to the offer by the Radcliffe trustees of the great astronomical instruments, the best in the world when in their prime, which for a century and a half had stood in their ancient observatory. He sincerely trusted that the university would lose no time before accepting these instruments for the accommodation of which it would be necessary to move only a relatively small stack of little-used books from the old Ashmolean buildings.

The only other important Oxford collection of local scientific apparatus which was required to complete the museum for the history of science was that of Dr. Daubeny, of Magdalen College. This collection had already been offered to the university by the college, and, so far as space permitted, he had accepted the offer, but a great part could not be received unless a simple suggestion made by the late Lord Birkenhead were adopted. Lord Birkenhead had said: "The university has provided these magnificent buildings for a specific purpose. Would it not be a noble and lasting memorial to demand the restoration of its spacious room to the purpose for which it was intended?" This was also the wish of a large number of members of congregation, and the considered recommendation of a committee appointed by the Hebdomadal Council of the university. Its accomplishment would speedily relieve the congestion of the collections already in the building, and would thereby enable them to be put to the full use for educational purposes.

THE HALL OF RACES OF MANKIND AT THE FIELD COLUMBIAN MUSEUM

WITH the placing on exhibition on October 4 of sculptures by Malvina Hoffman of eight more racial types, the exhibits in the Hall of the Races of Mankind (Chauncey Keep Memorial Hall) at Field Museum of Natural History are now practically complete. Altogether the hall now contains a hundred bronze and stone studies of representative types of the races of

the world. Nothing further remains for addition to the series except a head of a Beduin which will be undertaken in the near future.

The sculptures now added include a full length figure of a Navaho Indian of New Mexico, and busts of a Pueblo Indian woman of San Ildefonso, N. M., a Jicarilla Apache Indian of New Mexico, a Turk, a Carib of the Amazon Basin region of South America, an Igorot of the Philippines, a Berber of Morocco and a Toda of the Dravidian group of peoples of India. Like the other sculptures in the hall, these are all life size, made from studies of typical living models.

The exhibit was made possible by an initial legacy of \$50,000 bequeathed by the late Chauncey Keep in whose honor the hall has been named, and by contributions amounting to more than \$150,000 received from Marshall Field and from Mrs. Stanley Field and Mrs. Charles H. Schweppe, of Chicago.

The hall is divided into three sections, one containing the full length figures, family groups, busts and heads of the peoples of Africa and Oceania, another containing those of the Asiatic races, while the central one contains the racial representatives of Europe, the Americas and additional parts of Asia.

The comprehensive nature of the survey of mankind offered in this hall is indicated in the following brief summaries by geographical divisions:

The African section contains groups and full length figures depicting a Bushman family of the Kalahari Desert, a family of pygmies of the Ituri forest in the Belgian Congo, a dancing girl of the Lake Chad District, a Senegalese drummer and a Shilluk warrior of the upper Nile. Among other peoples represented by busts and heads are the Abyssinians, Sudanese, Dahomians, Mangbetus, Somali, Zulus, Nubians and Hamites.

Europe is represented by full length figures of a Nordic and of a Sicilian fisherman, and by busts and heads of the Mediterranean types of both Italy and France, the Lapps, the Anglo-Saxons, Bretons, Alpines, Basques and Georgians.

Asiatic types depicted in full length figures are a Vedda of Ceylon, a Kashmir of India, a Tamil tree climber of India, an Andaman Islander, a Tibetan merchant, a Chinese jinricksha coolie and an Ainu of northern Japan. Among the Asiatic peoples represented by busts and heads are the Singhalese, Arabs, Japanese and a large number of types of the diverse peoples inhabiting different parts of India and China.

The American continents are represented by a full length figure of a Blackfoot Indian, and by busts and heads representing the Eskimos, Sioux Indians, Patagonian Indians and the Mayas of Yucatan.

Oceania and Australia are represented by full length