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

figures of a Hawaiian surf rider, a Solomon Islander climbing a tree, a Semang pygmy of the Malay Peninsula, an aboriginal Australian man, woman and boy, and a group depicting types of Madura, Borneo, Java and Bali. Busts and heads represent the Dyaks of Borneo, Sakai and Jakun Malays, the Samoans and the Javanese.

A revised edition of the pamphlet, "The Races of Mankind," by Henry Field, assistant curator of physical anthropology, dealing with the exhibits in this hall and with the subject in general, has been issued by Field Museum Press.

GRANTS IN AID OF RESEARCH OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

THE American Academy of Arts and Sciences, at its meeting of October 10, 1934, announced grants-in-aid from the Permanent Science Fund as follows:

To Dr. Joseph A. Cushman, director of the Cushman Laboratory for Foraminiferal Research, Sharon, Mass., $300 to assist in his work on the foraminiferal fauna collected by the ship *Atlantis* of the Oceanographic Institute.

To Drs. C. V. Green and C. C. Little, Roscoe B. Jackson Memorial Laboratory, Bar Harbor, Maine, $750 for the care of experimental animals and the preparation and study of microscopic sections of tumors in their work on cancer research.

To Professor Willem J. Luyten, associate professor of astronomy, University of Minnesota, $250 to assist in an investigation of the proper motions of faint stars in the southern hemisphere.

To Professor Bret Ratner, clinical professor of pediatrics and lecturer in immunology, New York University and Bellevue Medical College, $375 to aid in his experiments on asthma in the guinea-pig.

To Dr. Roberts Rugh, Hunter College, New York, N. Y., $100 for the purchase of material needed for the study of induced ovulation and egg transport in the Urodeles, and for the preparation of moving picture films of this process.

To Mrs. Mabel Ruttle-Nebel, New York Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, N. Y., $300 to assist in her study of the chromosome matrix in plants of Allium, Crepis, Hordeum, Tradescantia, and Zea under various temperatures and nutritive conditions.

To Professor Karl Sax, associate professor of plant cytology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., $250 to assist in his study of the effect of variations of temperature on certain cytological processes.

To Professor Harry R. DeSilva, professor of psychology, Massachusetts State College, Amherst, $100 for electrical apparatus needed in his study of metabolism, and

To Mr. V. M. Slipher, director of the Lowell Observatory, Flagstaff, Arizona, $750 to aid in his work on the spectra of the planets.

Applications for grants-in-aid from the permanent science fund of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences should be addressed to Professor E. M. East, Bussey Institution for Research in Applied Biology, chairman of the permanent science fund committee, Forest Hills, Mass.

SIGMA PI SIGMA CONVENTION

THE third triennial convention of Sigma Pi Sigma was held at Purdue University on October 11, 12 and 13. Several significant questions of national policy were altered, in addition to an unusually extensive program of invited scientific papers. The title "fraternity" was dropped from the name, the association being designated in the future by the term "society." This was thought to be more in keeping with the nature of the society, which has always been an honorary and professional physics organization. At the same time all features involving secrecy were eliminated and additional emphasis will be placed upon the professional objectives of the combined local groups. The society now has a total membership of over 1,400 with about 500 active members in its 27 chapters.

Plans were approved for assisting each initiate to become a member of one or more of the professional physical societies and to encourage subscriptions to their magazines. A subsidy from the national treasury was provided for the purpose of assisting the chapters in bringing in outside speakers for open meetings.

The scientific papers included the following:

Dr. M. N. States, Central Scientific Company, "The Uses of Graphs in Physics."

Dr. I. Walerstein, Purdue University, "New Types of Demonstration Experiments" (with demonstrations).

Dr. H. C. Robertson, Purdue University, "Gyroscopes and Boomerangs" (with demonstration).

Dr. Otto Stern, Carnegie Institute of Technology, "Wave Properties of Molecular Beams."

At the close of the convention the following officers were elected: *President,* Dr. R. C. Colwell, West Virginia University; *Vice-president,* Dr. D. W. Cornelius, University of Chattanooga; *Executive Secretary,* Dr. Marsh W. White, The Pennsylvania State College. Those elected to the council were: Dr. M. N. States, Central Scientific Company; Dr. R. B. Abbott, Purdue University; Dr. J. C. Stearns, University of Denver, and Professor F. A. May, St. Lawrence University.

THE CLEVELAND MEETING OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

As has already been announced in SCIENCE, the autumn meeting of the National Academy of Sciences will be held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, November 19, 20 and 21, at the Case School of Applied Science and Western Reserve University. The scientific sessions on Monday and Wednesday will be held in the lecture room of the physical lab-