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### THE LIBRARY AND LABORATORY OF THE LATE SAMUEL COX HOOKER

PRESIDENT ROBERT H. RUFF, of Central College, Fayette, Missouri, announces that through the assistance of Wm. R. Warner and Company, of New York and St. Louis, Central College has just acquired the entire scientific library of the late Samuel C. Hooker, Ph.D.

Dr. Hooker's children, Mrs. Douglas Treat Davidson, Mrs. Sidney W. Davidson and Samuel Cox Hooker, Jr., have presented to Central College their father's private research laboratory, which was located with the library at his residence, 82 Remsen Street, Brooklyn, New York, including the supplies and equipment and their father's study. The library, laboratory and study are now being packed under the direction of Dr. Neil E. Gordon for removal to Central College, where the library will be installed and the laboratory reconstructed on the campus of the college in order to duplicate so far as possible the original arrangements.

President Ruff writes:

Dr. Hooker's death on October 12, 1935, removed from the ranks of American chemists one of its most remarkable figures. He was a former director and one of the chief technicians of the American Sugar Refining Company and was largely responsible for the development of the beet sugar industry in the United States. He organized the technical operation of all the company's beet sugar factories west of the Mississippi River and retired in 1916 at the age of fifty-six to devote himself to research in organic chemistry and the enjoyment of one of his principal recreations, the collection of scientific books. He continued his research and the building up of his scientific library until the time of his death. His library is recognized as one of the most complete and comprehensive scientific libraries in the world. It was catalogued after Dr. Hooker's death under the supervision of William W. Shirley, of the Pratt Institute Free Library of Brooklyn. It consists largely of scientific journals and includes many sets of obscure periodicals. In addition to chemistry other fields represented are sugar technology, pharmacology, metallurgy, dyes, physics and botany. The periodicals consist of over 18,000 volumes in addition to over 2,400 books and pamphlets.

Among other extraordinary items is a complete set of the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London from the commencement in 1665. This is the oldest scientific periodical in the world which is still being published. The earlier volumes include the bookplate of Richard Arkwright, the inventor of the spinning jenny.

The library includes many volumes which were at one time owned by the late Sir William Crookes. Early American titles include the *American Journal of Science* from 1818 and the *Journal of the Franklin Institute* from 1826. Dr. Hooker assembled the library from many sources both in this country and abroad and the periodicals are written not only in English but in many foreign languages, including Italian, Swedish, Dutch, Polish, French, German, Danish, Magyar and Japanese.

In his boyhood Dr. Hooker was interested in photography, and his library includes some of the earliest volumes on that subject, dating as far back as 1855 and a treatise on color photography published in 1878.

Dr. Gordon, who is now professor of chemistry at the Johns Hopkins University, will assume his duties as chairman of the chemistry department at Central College at the beginning of the next college year. The acquisition of Dr. Hooker's scientific library and laboratory will afford Central College the opportunity of developing scientific work of the first order.

### FIELD CONFERENCE OF PENNSYLVANIA AND NEW YORK GEOLOGISTS

A LARGE and representative group took part in the field conference of Pennsylvania and New York Geologists held in the anthracite region of Pennsylvania from May 22 to 24, 1936. The registrants, 99 in number, came from thirty-three institutions and organizations in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Washington, D. C.

The conference assembled in Scranton, spending the first afternoon in visiting the Marvine Breaker, the Grassy Island Mine and the Baltimore Fire Stripping of the Hudson Coal Company and the Archbald Pot-hole. Remarkably fine fossil plants were seen at Grassy Island and numerous fossil stumps at Baltimore Fire Stripping. Mr. R. Y. Williams, of Pottsville, gave a brief history of the anthracite industry at the evening meeting in Wilkes-Barre.

Saturday was spent in a traverse of the different anthracite fields to show the structures, stripping operations, "bootleg" coal mines, the extent of the workings and the problems involved in obtaining the coal. The St. Nicholas Breaker of the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company was visited on this day.

Saturday night a moving picture entitled "Stolen Coal," dealing with the "bootleg" coal industry, was shown by the Stevens Coal Company, and one entitled "Buried Sunshine" on the mining and preparation of coal by the Pennsylvania and Reading Coal and Iron Company.

Sunday the party studied the Mauch Chunk-Pottsville contact south of Tamaqua and then proceeded to Lansford for a trip underground in the Coaldale Colliery of the Lehigh Navigation Coal Company. The