

THE FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

THE annual report of the Field Museum, Chicago, was published on May 20. It is Director Clifford C. Gregg's first report, he having been elected last May director to succeed the late Stephen C. Simms. In the introduction to the report Mr. Gregg calls attention to the pressing needs of the institution. He writes:

The uncertainty of financial support continues to be the chief problem of Field Museum. There is great need for a larger scientific staff, more nearly proportioned to the scope of the institution. Additional staff members could give the public far greater use of the splendid collections now in the museum, through expansion and improvement of exhibits, further extension of educational activities, development of research facilities, increased production of publications and various other means.

There is great need of a pension fund adequate to meet the requirements of a staff most of whom have spent many years in the service of the institution. A splendid beginning on such a fund was made through the original contributions of President Stanley Field many years ago. Various other urgent needs of the institution since that time have taken all available funds, so that the pension fund is now woefully inadequate. The need of increased endowments becomes more marked year after year. Were it not for the generous support of Mr. Marshall Field, Mr. Stanley Field, Mrs. James Nelson Raymond, Mrs. Diego Suarez, and a few others, the activities of the museum would necessarily be curtailed at once. Rigid economies are required in any case under present-day conditions.

The year 1937 was a successful one from the standpoint of service rendered by the museum, as there was an increase in attendance, and notable accomplishments were made in various activities for the public and for the advancement of science. For the first time since 1933 the museum showed a substantial increase in attendance. The total figure of 1,290,023 visitors was a gain of a little more than 100,000 over the year before. On August 4 the museum received its twenty millionth visitor since the present building was first opened on May 2, 1931. Average attendance in this building has been one and a quarter million persons per year, contrasted with 228,000 annually in the former location.

Attendance at the museum itself does not indicate fully the scope of the institution's service. The department of the N. W. Harris Public School Extension benefited some 500,000 children by the circulation of nearly a thousand traveling exhibits among more than 400 Chicago schools. Nearly a quarter of a million children were reached with museum instruction supplementing their regular studies by the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation for Public School and Children's Lectures. Contributions to adult education were made by the free courses of illustrated lectures on science and travel, the 110,000 volumes in the museum library, and the reference collections of study material

in each of the scientific departments of the museum—anthropology, botany, geology and zoology.

Several new appointments to the museum staff are reported. These include: Richard A. Martin, curator of Near Eastern archeology; Dr. Julian A. Steyermark, assistant curator of the herbarium; John R. Millar, curator of the N. W. Harris Public School Extension, and five volunteer associates (working without compensation) as follows: Clarence B. Mitchell, research associate in photography; Paul G. Dallwig, layman lecturer; Mrs. Hermon Dunlap Smith, associate in ornithology; Mrs. Edna Horn Mandel, associate, Chinese collections, and Miss Elizabeth McM. Hambleton, associate, southwestern archeology.

AWARDS IN THE WILLIAM LOWELL PUTNAM MATHEMATICAL COMPETITION

ACCORDING to an announcement from the office of the secretary-treasurer of the Mathematical Association of America, the department of mathematics of the University of Toronto has won first prize, five hundred dollars, in the first annual William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition. The members of the winning team were A. J. Coleman, I. Kaplansky and N. S. Mendelsohn. The second prize, three hundred dollars, is awarded to the department of mathematics of the University of California at Berkeley, members of the team being S. P. Frankel, W. M. Kincaid and C. W. Lippman. The third prize, two hundred dollars, is awarded to the department of mathematics at Columbia University, the members of the team being S. W. Benson, B. A. Jacobson and Joseph Statsinger. In addition to these prizes to departments of mathematics with winning teams, a prize of \$50 each is awarded to the following five persons whose scores ranked highest in the six-hour examination (names arranged alphabetically): Robert Gibson, Kansas State College, Fort Hays; I. Kaplansky, University of Toronto; G. W. Mackey, Rice Institute; M. J. Norris, College of St. Thomas; Bernard Sherman, Brooklyn College. One of these five will receive a \$1,000 year scholarship to Harvard University, this award to be announced later. The members of the three winning teams will receive individual prizes of \$50, \$30 and \$20, according to the ranks of their teams, and all individuals receiving prizes will also receive medals.

The William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition examination was held on April 16, and 163 mathematics students from 67 colleges and universities in the United States and Canada took part. A qualified reader graded the examination books, complete anonymity being maintained throughout by the use of numbers instead of names for identification.