

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.

This competition was designed to stimulate a healthful rivalry in the undergraduate work of mathematics departments in colleges and universities in the United States and Canada and is open only to undergraduates. The examination questions were taken from the fields of calculus, higher algebra, differential equations and geometry.

The competition is made possible by the trustees of the William Lowell Putnam Intercollegiate Memorial Fund, left by Mrs. Putnam in memory of her husband, a member of the Harvard class of 1882. It is sponsored by the Mathematical Association of America and is held annually.

W. D. CAIRNS,
Secretary-Treasurer

DEGREES CONFERRED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA ON THE OCCASION OF THE DEDICATION OF THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

As part of the ceremonies of the dedication of the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia, degrees were conferred on May 20 by the University of Pennsylvania on five scientific men who gave lectures. In conferring these degrees Dr. Thomas S. Gates, president of the university, made the following citations:

GEORGE DAVID BIRKHOFF: For many years mathematicians have recognized you as a leader; your work and inspiration have guided the path of many to high places in American research. Your great genius has opened new fields in differential equations and dynamics. With your powerful methods in these fields, you have shed new light on the problem of three bodies, on the calculus of variations and on topology.

ARTHUR LOUIS DAY: Under your expert and generous direction the Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution has more than fulfilled the purpose of its founder to encourage discovery and the application of knowledges

to the improvement of mankind. With skilful new techniques you and your staff have plotted the equilibria of rock formations at atmospheric pressures, have synthetically reproduced the laboratory of nature far below the earth's crust, and have revealed the history of oceans by exploring the strata of their deepest beds.

GILBERT NEWTON LEWIS: An intuitive yet logical investigator, you have with brilliant results brought your own dynamic energy and insight to bear upon the phenomena of forces determining molecular structures. In the School of Chemistry of the University of California you have organized a center of teaching and research which has influenced the work of physical chemists everywhere. It is through minds such as yours that the world comes increasingly to "the knowledge of causes and secret motions of things, and the enlarging of the bounds of human empire, to the effecting of all things possible."

THOMAS HUNT MORGAN: The great figures in science have ever been more than recorders of newly discovered fact. The true pathfinders have been those who, like you, idealize their task and bring to it the fervor of imagination and faith. Preserving always that most difficult balance between old and new you have opened new vistas in the structure of germ cells and the mechanism of heredity which have won a Nobel Prize and acknowledged leadership. Your boldly constructive mind and your enthusiasm have inspired a notable group of co-workers who will carry to dark places the torch you have lighted.

LOUIS MARTIN: As Marie Curie has written, in science we must be interested in things, not in persons. Yet it is with peculiar pleasure that the Franklin Institute and the University of Pennsylvania welcome you to-day as the worthy inheritor of a great tradition. In your studies of the toxins of diphtheria and tetanus, your work on the hospitalization of contagious diseases, and the treatment of sleeping sickness and meningitis you have successfully applied methods learned from your distinguished predecessor. As hospital director and Director of the Pasteur Institute you have brought a new brilliance to the medical science of your country.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. JOHN J. ABEL, who retired with the title emeritus in 1932 from the professorship of pharmacology at the Johns Hopkins University, now director of the Laboratory of Endocrine Research, has been elected a foreign member of the Royal Society, London. Dr. Abel celebrated his eighty-first birthday on May 19.

DR. ROSS G. HARRISON, Sterling professor of biology at Yale University, has been elected a foreign member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Science, Stockholm.

DR. HARVEY CUSHING, professor of neurology emeritus in the School of Medicine of Yale University and professor of surgery emeritus of Harvard University, has been elected an honorary member of the Biological Society of Vienna.

DR. RICHARD GOLDSCHMIDT, professor of zoology, University of California, has been elected a foreign member of the Royal Society of Copenhagen.

At the eighty-fifth commencement exercises of the University of Maine the doctorate of science will be conferred on Dr. Harry Steenbock, professor of agricultural chemistry at the University of Wisconsin.

FORMAL presentation of the Mendel Medal of Villanova College to Dr. Thomas Parran, surgeon general of the U. S. Public Health Service, was made at a dinner given in his honor on May 18.

DR. O. A. JOHANSEN, head of the department of entomology at Cornell University, was given a testimonial dinner on the evening of April 30 by his col-