

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

## THE SCIENCE MUSEUM, SOUTH KENSINGTON

THE development of the Science Museum, South Kensington, is discussed in the report for 1937 of the advisory council, of which Sir Henry Lyons is chairman. As reported in the London *Times* the council states that the project now under consideration for the readjustment and expansion of the Government and collegiate institutions in the area between Kensington Gore and Cromwell Road has made it imperative to survey afresh the future function and progress of the museum.

The total exhibition space which is estimated to be necessary now amounts, owing to the rapid growth of science in the past 25 years, to 50 per cent. more than that envisaged by Sir Hugh Bell's Committee in 1912. According to this calculation the site area necessary, allowing for exhibition galleries on not more than three floors, is 310,000 square feet, and this would take up nearly all the space enclosed by the Natural History Museum boundary, Exhibition and Imperial Institute Roads and Queen's Gate. Even apart from this the rebuilding of the museum is in arrears of what was suggested in 1912, and the council emphasizes the urgency of the reconstruction of the center block, now eight years overdue.

There is a lack of accommodation which is apparent in many sections of the report. For example, all the library's space for bookstores will be exhausted by the end of this year, and it has already become necessary to find storage outside the museum for exhibits for which there is no room at present in the galleries.

The number of visitors during 1937 was 1,271,599, against 1,281,338 in 1936 and 1,327,190 in the peak year 1935. The new exhibits acquired numbered 1,202—of which one was the Bryant and May collection of fire-making appliances, consisting of more than 1,300 items, now on loan to the museum. Library readers increased from 22,366 to 24,627 in the year, and some 12,000 volumes were added by gift, exchange or purchase.

Consideration is given in the report to each of the five divisions into which the collections are classified. One point made is that, owing to the rapid mechanization of farming, it has become desirable to acquire a selection of recently superseded farm implements, and several valuable acquisitions of the kind were made during a tour in Devon and Cornwall.

## THE JANE COFFIN CHILDS MEMORIAL FUND FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

At the close of its regular quarterly meeting, held at New Haven, Conn., on June 14, the Board of Managers of The Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund for

Medical Research reviewed the activities of its Board of Scientific Advisers and announced its program for the support of cancer research for the next three years. According to the statement, the primary purpose of the fund at present is to support research into the causes, and origins are to receive chief attention. Therapeutic investigations have been considered from the point of view of their contribution to knowledge of causes and origins.

Since the establishment of the Childs Fund at Yale University in June, 1937, the director and members of the Board of Scientific Advisers have given careful consideration to the program of the fund and have sought advice from directors of medical and cancer research, officers of foundations which support research and from investigators. The consensus of opinion of numerous consultants and of the Board of Scientific Advisers is that the most advantageous program is a combination of distributed grants-in-aid with a concentration of resources in the support of cancer research at a university medical school closely affiliated with a general hospital, including an active tumor clinic, where personnel and facilities are available for attack upon fundamental and clinical problems. In view of the developments in cancer research at Yale University and the desire of the Boards of the Childs Fund to build up that center of investigation, and because of the opportunities for cooperative research at the Yale University School of Medicine and in other departments of the university, it was decided to concentrate the major portion of the income of the fund on the support of cancer research at Yale University for the next three years. In addition, grants-in-aid have been and will be made for cancer research in other institutions in this country and abroad, in accordance with the terms of the deed of gift. When the Childs Fund was established last June the amount of the principal was appraised at \$3,343,556.

The members of the Board of Scientific Advisers of the Childs Fund are:

- Dr. S. Bayne-Jones, professor of bacteriology and dean, Yale University School of Medicine, *director*.
- Dr. Rudolph J. Anderson, professor of chemistry, Yale University.
- Dr. Ross G. Harrison, Sterling professor of biology, Yale University.
- Dr. Peyton Rous, member, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research.
- Dr. M. C. Winternitz, professor of pathology, Yale University School of Medicine.

At its meeting the Board of Managers voted to recommend to the corporation of Yale University that Dr. George M. Smith, research associate in anatomy with rank of professor in the Yale University School