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made is that, owing to the rapid mechanization of farming, it has become desirable to acquire a selection of recently superseded farm implements, and several valuable acquisitions of the kind were made during a tour in Devon and Cornwall.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

of Medicine, be appointed also a member of the Board of Scientific Advisers.

The Board of Managers is composed of the following members:

Honorable Frederic C. Walcott, Norfolk, Conn., *chairman.*
Albert H. Barclay, New Haven, Conn., *vice-chairman.*
Christie P. Hamilton, New York City, *treasurer.*
S. Winston Childs, Jr., New York City, *secretary.*
Starling W. Childs, Norfolk, Conn.
Edward C. Childs, Reading, Pa.
Richard S. Childs, New York City.
George Parmly Day, New Haven, Conn.
Dr. Charles Seymour, president of Yale University, *ex officio.*

Applications for aid from the fund should be addressed to Dr. S. Bayne-Jones, director, Board of Scientific Advisers, 333 Cedar Street, New Haven, Conn.

GRANTS OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

NINETEEN research projects will be carried out in the United States, Mexico and Canada this summer under grants from the Geological Society of America. The list of grants, aggregating $17,073, follows:

Dr. Louis B. Slichter, professor of geophysics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, $5,350 for a large-scale seismic investigation of the earth's crust in New England.

Dr. Perry Byerly, professor of seismology, the University of California, $900 for an investigation to determine whether various portions of the earth's crust have free vibration periods during earthquakes.

Dr. David Griggs, research physicist, Harvard University, $675 for constructing instruments to test the deformation of rocks under high confining pressures in the laboratory.

Dr. Harry J. Klepser, instructor in geology, Capital University, Columbus, Ohio, $300 to complete a detailed stratigraphic study of rock formations of Lower Mississippian Age in the Highland Rim of central Tennessee.

Dr. Harold R. Wanless, associate professor of geology, the University of Illinois, $1,542 for field studies of rock formation of Pennsylvanian Age in Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and possibly Virginia.

Dr. Claude C. Albritton, instructor in geology, Southern Methodist University, and Dr. Kirk Bryan, professor of geology, Harvard University, $500 for an investigation of Ice Age deposits near Alpine, Texas, containing human remains and fossils of extinct animals.

Dr. Ernst Cloos, associate professor of geology, the Johns Hopkins University, $990 for a study of the age of the Glenarm rock series in Pennsylvania and Maryland, which has long been in dispute.

Charles S. Denny, instructor in geology, Harvard University, $355 for a study of the Santa Fe formation of Tertiary Age, in the region north of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Max Demorest, fellow in the Graduate School of Princeton University, $400 for the detailed study of an area extending across the Bighorn Mountains of Wyoming from Bighorn in the east to Shell Creek Canyon on the west.

Fred B. Phleger, Jr., instructor in geology, Amherst College, $500 for a study of microscopic animal life in submarine cores, recently taken from the North Atlantic Ocean.

Dr. Kenneth E. Caster, curator of the Museum of Paleontology of the University of Cincinnati, $500 to restudy and illustrate North American pelecypods, or clam-like fauna, of the Devonian Period.

Dr. Edward B. Mathews, professor of geology, the Johns Hopkins University, $700 to continue his work in collecting analyses of all igneous rock from North America and elsewhere.

Dr. R. W. Imlay, research associate, Museum of Paleontology of the University of Michigan, $835 for field studies of stratigraphy and paleontology and studies of connections between the Atlantic and Pacific across northern Sonora, Mexico, that existed during the Mesozoic Era.

Dr. Gilbert D. Harris, professor of paleontology, Cornell University, and Dr. Katherine Van Winkle Palmer, of the Paleontological Research Institution, Ithaca, N. Y., $700 for a field and laboratory study to complete a series of monographs on the mollusks of the Eocene formations of the southeastern states.

Dr. Charles Deiss, professor of geology, Montana State University, $400 to continue studies leading to the revision of the Cambrian rock formations in the Canadian Rockies and the northwestern states.

Dr. Charles F. Bassett, assistant professor of geology, the University of Kansas City, $300 to collect fossils and to study a section of Paleozoic rocks near Dotsero, Colo.

Dr. Richard Foster Flint, professor of geology, Yale University, $365 for an examination and interpretation of the glacial deposits in Columbia River Canyon, exposed during the construction of Coulée Dam.

Dr. J. Hoover Mackin, assistant professor of geology, the University of Washington, $260 for a revision of the glacial geology of the Puget-Juan de Fuca region of Washington.

Arthur Keith, U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D. C., $665 to continue and complete his studies of Appalachian structure and stratigraphy in the Province of Quebec and adjacent areas.

A SPECIAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE ON CHEMISTRY

THE Section on Chemistry (C) of the American Association for the Advancement of Science has organized a new type of conference under the direction of Dr. Harold C. Urey and Dr. Neil E. Gordon, who are respectively the chairman and the secretary of the section. This conference will be held at Gibson Island, Maryland, from August 15 to 26, inclusive.

The program is as follows:

A. *Relation of Structure to Physiological Action,* Harold C. Urey, *chairman.* August 15–19.