

(formerly a member of the Harvard faculty), was the honorary chairman. Professor William E. Hocking spoke on "William James' World-View."

Professor Hocking also opened a series of symposium lectures at Harvard, "William James and the Psychology of the Present," on January 28. Twelve men are contributing to the series, in which five lectures have already been given, with seven to come, concluding on April 22. In September the American Psychological Association will celebrate the James anniversary at Harvard, with James R. Angell, formerly president of Yale, as chairman.

RECENT DEATHS

EDWARD C. SCHMIDT, who retired two years ago as professor of railway engineering at the University of Illinois, died on March 21. He was sixty-seven years old.

DR. MARTHA TRACY, assistant director of the Public Health Department of Philadelphia, died on March 22, at the age of sixty-five years.

DR. GEORGE SHIRAS, 3D, of Marquette, Mich., known for his flashlight photographs of wild animals, died on March 24, at the age of eighty-three years. He had made biological expeditions to Newfoundland, Alaska, the West Indies, Mexico, Panama, Hawaii and the Rocky Mountains.

DR. I. SETH HIRSCH, since 1933 professor of radiology at the New York University College of Medicine and a practicing physician in New York City for forty years, died on March 24, at the age of sixty-one years.

THE death is announced of Professor Sir Robert Chapman, since 1939 president of the South Australian School of Mines.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

PHYSICIANS FOR THE GOVERNMENT SERVICES

It is reported in *The New York Times* that at a meeting of the Medical Society of the County of New York at the New York Academy of Medicine, Colonel S. F. Seeley, of the Army Medical Corps and the executive officer for the Procurement and Assignment Service for Physicians, Dentists and Veterinarians, a branch of the Federal Security Agency headed by Paul V. McNutt, announced that a questionnaire will be sent to every physician, dentist and veterinarian in the United States during the first week in April by the Procurement and Assignment Service, Washington, "designed to give an opportunity to the 270,000 persons in these professions to state their preference, should they be called, whether in military, governmental, industrial or civil activity."

Colonel Seeley said:

For the first time in history there is now to be concentrated in one office the data on the availability of professional men to supply the needs of the Army, Navy, U. S. Public Health Service, U. S. Civil Service Commission, Veterans Administration, U. S. Children's Bureau, physicians and dentists and veterinarians and other government services.

No service will commission or employ a person unless cleared by this Procurement and Assignment Service. This immense mobilization must be accomplished without the least jeopardy to the communities from which the men are taken.

The Navy will need a total of 3,000 doctors when its enlistment of 500,000 is reached. For the Army, 16,000 new physicians must be supplied by December 1.

Nearly two years ago the American Medical Association sent out a questionnaire and elicited replies

from more than 159,000 physicians in the nation, of whom more than half were willing to volunteer for medical service in case of war. Of the 62,000 under the age of 45, 63 per cent. of the unmarried and 48 per cent. of those married even at that early date before war seemed probable, twenty-two months ago, were willing to offer their services.

Colonel Seeley stated further:

Many physicians are especially interested in aviation medicine. Information blanks may be procured from the Office of the Air Surgeon, Army Air Force, Washington, D. C. Last week my office received a request for 2,500 medical officers for service with the Air Corps by July 1, and to provide 600 per month for the balance of the year. Of the men selected, 80 per cent. must be under 36 years, 20 per cent. may be selected from the group between 36 and 45 if they are recognized specialists, particularly in traumatic surgery, ophthalmology or neuropsychiatry.

No man will be assigned to duty if he is essentially needed on the staff of a teaching institution, industrial plant, hospital staff, public health service or in private practice, unless he can be replaced. But it is expected that all such positions ultimately can be filled by men over forty-five years, or those physically unfit for service under that age, and by women doctors, of whom the nation now has 8,000 in active practice.

A NEW BOTANICAL HALL AT CARNEGIE MUSEUM

THE Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, according to *Museum News*, has transformed its Botanical Hall so completely as to make it a new hall both in installation and architectural design. Daylight has been eliminated by closing all the windows with solid stonework; an illusion of spaciousness has been given by a concave dome-like ceiling over an octagonal opening in a

false ceiling, thus combining flat and concave effects. An effective system of ventilation has been added. The habitat groups now appear as openings in the walls of the gallery instead of as individual protruding boxes. The effect is a pleasing continuity. Reflections on the glass are eliminated by interior case lighting. Labels by Curator O. E. Jennings contain explanatory transparencies in color photography that enable the visitor to identify individual plants and the occasional animal forms introduced into the settings. Full-sized groups installed are the Florida group, the Pennsylvania bog, the spring flora of Pennsylvania, Mount Rainier and Arizona. Three additional full-sized groups are proposed, and the space left for these is now occupied by miniature dioramas showing Arctic tundra, the slope of Pennsylvania Laurel Ridge Mountain and Presque Isle Peninsula on Lake Erie. Other exhibits in the room include enlarged models of flowers and maps showing vegetational regions. An octagonal block of benches occupies the center. Plans are ready for two gallery floors and await only the necessary funds for work to begin. Frank A. Linder developed the plans and supervised construction of the Botanical Hall, which was a WPA project. Roy B. Ambrose, of the building staff, helped in the technical problems. Ottmar F. von Fuehrer, staff artist, created the exhibits with the help of Mrs. Fuehrer and Carl Beato, under the general direction of Mr. Jennings. For the Arizona group alone Mrs. von Fuehrer and Mr. Beato fashioned some 12,600 separate pieces.

THE HALL OF NORTH AMERICAN MAMMALS OF THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

AFTER six years of construction and preparation, the new hall of North American mammals in the American Museum of Natural History will be opened to the public on April 9. The first completed habitat groups (ten in number) of what is eventually expected to be the world's finest representation of North American animals housed in one exhibition hall, will be dedicated by officials of New York City and trustees of the museum on April 8.

The new hall is a panorama of wildlife throughout the entire continent, extending from Ellesmere Land, near the North Pole, to Mexico; and from New York State to the west coast of Alaska. As in the Akeley African Hall on the floor above, the animals are mounted in realistic life settings of their native plains, forests, swamps, mountains and deserts.

More than eighteen years ago, Dr. Harold E. Anthony, curator of the department of mammals, outlined plans for a new and modern hall of North American mammals to replace the old interpretation and "stuffed animal" appearance of exhibitions shown in the old mammal hall, built in 1890.

Realizing also that in many instances America's wildlife is still continuing to disappear before the advance of civilization as well as through changing climatic conditions governing the native habitats of these animals, F. Trubee Davison, president of the museum, since the summer of 1935 has directed its expedition program principally to the North American continent for extensive collections of our existing animals.

In 1937 Mr. Davison enlisted the active support of officials of New York City and those who wished to see American mammals preserved in life-like settings for future generations that may not have the opportunity of knowing the living animals.

Without funds contributed by the City of New York for the construction of cases, obtained through the efforts of Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, Commissioner Joseph T. McGoldrick and Commissioner Robert Moses, the new hall could not have been built. Under the leadership of the Trustees' Committee of North American Mammals eighteen expeditions have collected for the ten habitat groups now completed and eight to be opened in the near future.

The designs, preparation and presentation of the groups were carried out by Dr. James L. Clark, head of the Department of Arts and Preparation, assisted by Albert E. Butler and under the scientific direction of Dr. Harold E. Anthony. Engineering and construction were in charge of Rex Johnson, general superintendent, assisted by Victor Ronfeldt, mechanical superintendent, and Wilson L. Todd, power plant engineer.

The animals were mounted by sculptor-taxidermists, Robert H. Rockwell, Gardell D. Christensen, George Adams and Waddy McFall. Artists who painted the background scenes, in most cases made from their own expedition field-paintings, were Belmore Browne, Charles S. Chapman, Carl Rungius, James Perry Wilson, Francis Lee Jaques, Joseph M. Guerry and Frederick Scherer.

Those who participated in the making of flora and foreground accessories were: Albert E. Butler, George E. Petersen, Raymond H. De Lucia, G. Frederick Mason, Ralph Mendez, Robert Scherer, Charles Tornell, Robert Sewell, Bernard Chapman, Rudolph Freund and James Carmel.

THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL'S COMMITTEE ON THE APPLICATIONS OF THE ELECTRON MICROSCOPE

THE electron microscope has opened up for investigation a new order of submicroscope dimensions. Within this range are minute structures of interest in most, if not all, fields of natural science. Interpretation of electron micrographs involves new problems; these arise primarily from the complexities of