

CHICAGO'S FIELD MUSEUM

BY D. C. DAVIES

THE Field Museum of Natural History was founded in 1893, its establishment being made possible by the late Marshall Field, who gave \$1,000,000 for the purpose. A further sum of \$8,000,000 was bequeathed to the institution by Mr. Field when he died in January, 1906. Of this amount, \$4,000,000 was allotted for the erection of the present building, and \$4,000,000 for endowment.

The Museum originally occupied the Fine Arts Building in Jackson Park, the most beautiful of the buildings which had housed the Chicago World's Columbian Exposition. Since 1920 the Museum has been in its own new building, in Grant Park. Three main objectives were kept to the fore in planning and designing this building: First, to provide perfect exhibition rooms for the display of scientific collections; second, to furnish adequate quarters and equipment for the scientific and working staffs needed for such collections; and third, to erect a building which would attain the high standard of Greek architecture, and hold a worthy place among the monumental structures of Chicago.

The building is of white Georgia marble, classic in design and massive in proportion. The main architectural motifs were inspired by the Erechtheum, generally recognized as the most refined example of the Ionic order. The museum building modelled on this classic structure is 700 feet long, 350 feet wide and 90 feet high, and covers an area of about eleven acres. The north and south façades are divided into a large pedimented central pavilion and two long wings, the latter having each a complete series of Ionic columns running throughout its length, and terminated by a smaller pavilion at the end. This order rests upon a basement story and is crowned by an attic, pierced with windows.

An attractive feature of the exterior is the terrace, sixty feet wide, extending all the way around the building, and rising six feet above the ground. This terrace has a retaining wall, steps and balustrade of the same marble as the building proper. The main entrance is provided with an ample flight of steps leading to the central doorway, and is emphasized by decorative flagstaffs on the terrace to the east and west.

The interior of the museum building consists, in its general arrangement, of a great central hall or nave, flanked by transverse exhibition halls on both sides; these exhibition halls being again united by halls running parallel to the nave at either end of the building. The rest of the structure is divided into floors, all of which are devoted to exhibition purposes, except the third floor and clerestories which are used for offices and laboratories of the scientific staff.

The central hall, which is dedicated to Stanley Field, president of the Museum, contains four fine statues designed by Henry Hering. These figures symbolize the purposes of the Museum, and blend with the architectural treatment of the hall. The figures represent symbolically "Natural Science", "Dissemination of Knowledge", "Research" and "Record".

The Museum contains a theatre seating more than 1,000 persons, built with funds provided by James Simpson, and named in his honor, and a smaller lecture hall, both of which are used for illustrated science and travel lectures, moving pictures for children, and other such public purposes.

Exhibits in the Museum have been gathered by collectors, specialists in their respective departments of the natural sciences, who have been dispatched to many parts of the world for the purpose of accumulating material. So closely have they adhered to the best practice that today the Museum is noted for exactness and purity of method, and the material exhibited is becoming more and more appreciated for its attractiveness, coördination, high educational value and economic usefulness.

Exhibits are grouped into four departments, Anthropology, Botany, Geology and Zoölogy. The collections in each are arranged systematically under their respective divisions, descriptive labels being attached to all exhibits. Stanley Field

Hall is an exception to the arrangement described. In this hall, which occupies the nave of the building, and into which the main entrance opens, representative collections from each of the departments are shown, to give a general glimpse of the activities of the Institution as a whole.

In the Department of Anthropology are life-size groups of Eskimos, Indians of various tribes, and other primitive peoples, surrounded by the weapons, implements, utensils, art products and other objects representative of their lives and cultures; Etruscan, Greek and Roman antiquities; a complete Maori council house from Polynesia; gorgeous silken dresses, grotesque masks and other objects from the interior of forbidden Tibet; and collections representing the ancient cultures of Mexico, Peru, South Pacific Islands, Japan, China, and Africa. These are but a few of the exhibits indicating the scope of this department devoted to the fascinating "Science of Man". There are more than 160,000 objects illustrating the achievements in arts and industries, and the social and religious life of the peoples of the world outside of modern Europe and America, in both historic and prehistoric times.

A comprehensive idea of the Plant Kingdom and its relation to human life may be obtained in the Department of Botany. Particular emphasis is laid on economic uses of plant materials in the exhibits, thus making them of interest to students of economics and business men. There is a display of characteristic plant forms from the lowest bacteria, represented as seen with a microscope, to the higher forms of plants. Of striking interest is a collection of wheat specimens, including wheat that grew in Egypt and Mesopotamia 5,500 years ago, believed to be the oldest grains in existence. Rare beauty is to be seen in exotic trees, plants, and flowers brought from remote parts of the world. The various woods of America and foreign countries are illustrated by a series of specimens and explanatory monographs, pictures and maps. Rare and curious plants and flowers are shown; and there are exhibits affording economic studies of such important products as grains, sugars, coffee, tea, spices and so forth.

The development of life on the earth from the time of the

simplest invertebrates, many millions of years ago, down to that of the highest forms in recent times, is illustrated in the historical, or paleontological, section of the Department of Geology. Complete or partial skeletons of prehistoric creatures of terrifying aspect, such as dinosaurs, mammoths, mastodons, and sabretoothed tigers are found here. Another feature is the collection of meteorites, which is the largest in the world, and includes one huge specimen weighing 3,275 pounds. A model of the moon, so far as known the largest and most elaborate ever made, is another object of interest. Comprehensive series of mineral exhibits, containing more than 20,000 specimens, illustrate the scientific, economic and industrial relations of these products. The economic collections include models of mines, metal treatment plants, brick and cement plants, and an early oil refinery, and specimens illustrating the most important mineral substances and their great varieties of derivatives.

The Department of Zoölogy is noted not only for its large collections of animals, including many very rare specimens, but also for its beautiful landscaped habitat groups, in which animals, birds, and marine life are shown in settings accurately depicting their natural environments. By the use of advanced ideas in taxidermy, and in museum art and lighting, these exhibits are distinguished for their pictorial and artistic worth as well as their scientific value. The principal masterpieces of the famous explorer, taxidermist and sculptor, the late Carl E. Akeley, are found here. The department includes a classified series of animals in which each important one can be found in its proper place, facilitating study; and preparations of animals or parts of animals to illustrate facts, ideas and theories about them in their relation to each other and to man. Nearly all known species of American birds, and the principal types of foreign birds, are on exhibition. There are also large collections of fishes, reptiles, amphibians, and skeletons of vertebrates.

The Field Museum has a broad educational programme. In addition to the educational and cultural work accomplished by the exhibits, large study collections are maintained, which are available to students and others interested in special branches of science. The museum has a library containing approximately

90,000 scientific books, which is open to the public, as well as for reference by the Museum staff.

An elaborate organization is maintained to coördinate museum and school studies, both by work in the museum and through extramural activities. The N. W. Harris Public School Extension of the Museum circulates 1,000 travelling exhibits among all the public schools of Chicago, and to many other institutions. The James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Public School and Children's Lecture Division of the Museum sends lecturers with slides and films out to the schools to address classrooms and assemblies, and provides several series of educational moving pictures for children, given each year in the James Simpson Theatre of the Museum.

Several courses of illustrated science and travel lectures for adults are also given at the Museum each year. The Museum staff produces many important scientific reports, treatises and other publications each year, which are printed by the Museum press, and given wide circulation throughout the world.

Each year the Museum has expeditions at work in many far corners of the world, seeking old and new treasures for all the departments of the institution. The extent of these activities may be grasped by noting that in 1926 the Museum had sixteen expeditions operating, and in 1927 there were fourteen. Several are now at work, and others are in contemplation for later in 1928. Expeditions in the last two years, to mention only a few, have ranged from Labrador and Baffin Land to Madagascar, from Alaska to Abyssinia, and from Mesopotamia to South America.

THESE THINGS SHALL STAY

BY HAL SAUNDERS WHITE

SOME things there are which change not—
As green leaves in Spring
And running water;
The beach in waiting silence fraught
With songs the salt winds bring
With strange sea laughter murmuring
Till they have taught her
Their shifting songs to sing;
At drowsy summer window ledges
Fingered winds that press and pass
And trample soft-foot through the hedges
Or poise a-tip-toe in the grass
Swaying along the pathway's edges;
The wet wind's breath on a gray beech bole;
The flash of sun on a swallow's wing;
The riot in a robin's soul
When love of earth has made him sing
At the middle moment of the dawn
Before day comes and the night is gone.
Song and love and wind and rain
Have been, are, will be again. . . .
Behind the wind's swift changes,
And the green leaf's growing,
A deathless spirit ranges
Beautiful past knowing
By day and by night. . . .
Roof-trees may fall
And granite moulder,
Old love take flight
And new love grow older.
These things shall stay,
None of these all
Shall pass away.