

German Chemistry

Chemistry

Great chemical progress is being made in Germany and the laboratories and plants where the new processes for obtaining oil from coal, making synthetic methanol, dye-stuffs, rayon, artificial fertilizers, and a multitude of other products will be of great interest to the chemist traveler. Many of the great German chemical plants can be visited; school children are conducted on tours through many of them in order to foster the chemical spirit.

Chemical progress in the country beyond the Rhine is detailed in a trade information bulletin of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Washington, D. C., "German Chemical Developments in 1927" by William T. Daugherty, American Trade Commissioner in Berlin. Complete lists of important plants are contained in this publication.

The outstanding chemical development in Germany is the Leunawerke, at *Merseburg*, operated by the Ammoniakwerk Merseburgh G. m. b. H., which is controlled by the German Dye Trust (I. G.). Around 350,000 tons of synthetic nitrogen are produced there annually. The making of oil from coal and lignite by the Bergius process has progressed so far that 100,000 tons of synthetic gasoline will go on the market this year. Synthetic methanol is also produced from carbon monoxide and hydrogen by catalytic methods.

Science News-Letter, April 7, 1928

Haunts of Cave-Men

Anthropology

Information from Dr. George Grant MacCurdy, director, American School of Prehistoric Research. (Home address: Peabody Museum, Yale University.)

From certain locations in Europe there have come evidences of the great antiquity of man. Tourists can see for themselves some of these diggings from which anthropologists are still unearthing the skeletons, implements and other evidences of ancient men. Dr. MacCurdy is director of the American School of Prehistoric Research which will be digging at Castel-Merle during the month of August. Dr. MacCurdy's address while there will be Hotel Delsaut, St. Léon-sur-Vézère (Dordogne), France.

A full list of the prehistoric sites of Europe is contained in Dr. MacCurdy's two-volume work, "Human Origins," but the following is a brief list of the accessible sites in France: (Turn to next page)

Science in London

General Science

As might be expected, London, the world's largest city, contains so many things of interest, that a stay far longer than the average American visitor can make, would be required to see them all. This is also true of the places interesting to the scientist, but the following list gives a few of the places that it is most essential to visit. The Royal Observatory, and Burlington House, the home of the Royal Society and the Royal Astronomical Society, are mentioned in the article on astronomy.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM, on Great Russell Street, and adjacent to Russell Square, is probably the world's most famous museum. Its library contains over four million volumes, on more than fifty miles of shelving. The archaeological exhibits, which include the famous Rosetta stone, with the aid of which the Egyptian hieroglyphics were first deciphered, are of particular interest. Experienced guides, inexpensive handbooks, catalogs and postcards all aid the visitor to make the best use of his visit.

THE ROYAL INSTITUTION is on Albemarle Street, just off Piccadilly. It is the scene of the researches and popular lectures of some of the greatest British physicists, from Thomas

Young, Humphry Davy and Michael Faraday down to Sir Joseph Thomson, Sir Ernest Rutherford and Sir William Bragg. During the winter months popular lectures are given, of which the Christmas "Children's Lectures," so-called because they are mostly attended by adults, have achieved international fame. The historic lecture hall, the library and the museum, including the original miner's safety lamp and other apparatus made and used by Davy, Faraday and others, will be of interest to the American visitor who comes in the summer time.

THE DAVY-FARADAY RESEARCH LABORATORY, next door, is affiliated with the Royal Institution, and provides research facilities for qualified investigators.

LANDDOWNNE HOUSE is on the south side of Berkeley Square, not far from Burlington House and the Royal Institution. There is nothing here of present interest to the scientist, but the spot is immortal in scientific history, because it was while Joseph Priestley was serving here as librarian that he discovered oxygen.

THE SCIENCE MUSEUM at *South Kensington* is quickly reached by the London "Un- (Turn to next page)

Russia Sees It Through

General Science

Although official relations between the government of Russia and the governments of the Western Powers continue to be for the most part of the stiffest and coldest, individual scientists from the *Abendland* find themselves warmly welcomed by their colleagues when they visit Russia, and Russian scientists are appearing with increasing frequency at international scientific congresses.

Russian scientists, indeed, have been steadily forging to the front since the War. They are giving the rest of the world a stiff race for first place in the field of soil science, and in plant physiology they have made a number of important contributions. The Soviets are also engaged in finding out something about the vast territory under their flag, and frequent expeditions have been going into Russian Asia to inquire into such things as geography, geology, mineral and petroleum resources and the hitherto neglected paleontology and archaeology of Central and Farther Asia.

The two great cultural centers in Russia which American travelers are likely to visit are Leningrad and Moscow. At Leningrad there is, of course, the University, which is now said to be carrying on vigorously with a full student body. Then there is the National Museum, and of perhaps even greater interest the Hermitage, once the private museum of the Czars, now public. For the botanist there is the great Botanic Garden, and for the plant physiologist the Institute of Applied Botany.

At Moscow again there is the University, with its chain of museums, institutes, collections, etc. As might be expected at the capital, there are many governmental scientific agencies, and a large number of medical and hygienic centers under government direction, as well as the peculiarly Soviet educational institutions designed to carry out the ambitious program of wholesale adult education of Russia's formerly illiterate masses.

Science News-Letter, April 7, 1928