

## BIOLOGY

## Young Folks Build Museum In North Carolina Town

UNIQUE among museums in the United States is one in Washington, N. C., which has been developed and is operated in regular, full-scale museum style by the young folks of the town, mostly those of high school age. The Washington Field Museum, as it is called, is a full-fledged member of the American Association of Museums, and its youthful curators are even now spending part of their spring vacation time in visits to its larger sister establishments conducted by grownups, to learn some new tricks of the craft for their own use.

It all started back in 1923, when a few high school students pooled their amateur collections of butterflies, snakes, etc., in a tent made of sacking. They named their embryo institution "The Bughouse Laboratory."

Instead of dying out presently, as such ventures are apt to do, the Bughouse Laboratory survived. It moved into a backyard kitchen, then into an empty store building. The Bughouse Laboratory became socially "the thing"; membership on its staff was more desirable than a bid to a fraternity.

Successive school generations graduated and grew up, and their younger brothers and sisters took their places. The "founding fathers", still young folks, began to have influence in the community. They secured a plot of land, which has been developed into a neat little park. A lumber company donated building materials, WPA labor was secured, and presently the Bughouse Laboratory moved into its new quarters, and added to its title the more formal style of Washington Field Museum.

There is a full-time director, Miss Mary Shelburne, but the rest of the curators are still boys and girls from school. They pursue all branches of research and collecting, with special emphasis on natural history and early Americana. A number of live animals have been donated, so the museum is now in the process of developing a zoo.

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Artificial rubies and sapphires are to be manufactured in Russia for jewelry, precision instruments, and watches.

Apple varieties change slowly, because the apple is a crop planted to last about half a century and a farmer is apt to be cautious about new varieties.



### YOUTH'S HOUSE OF SCIENCE

*The Washington, N. C., Field Museum (more familiarly and affectionately called the Bughouse Museum), started as a hobby of a few high school students, has grown to be a real civic center.*

## PSYCHOLOGY

## World War, Downfall of Nazis Predicted in Princeton Poll

### Experts in Social Science and Business Forecasting File Prognostications for Checking as Time Passes

A WORLD war in which the United States will be involved, a Democratic victory in 1940, passing of the Nazi form of government within 20 years. These are some of the prophecies made by the Mother Shiptons of our own present day as described to the Eastern Branch of the American Psychological Association by Dr. Hadley Cantril of Princeton University.

The soothsayer and oracle may have become outmoded, but civilized man has not lost interest in the future, Dr. Cantril said. Today, he turns to confidential business guides or public opinion polls for predictions of what lies ahead.

As a test of both professional and lay prophets, Dr. Cantril has sent a questionnaire asking for 70 different predictions to several hundred persons including experts such as outstanding bankers, newspaper and magazine editors, lawyers, life-insurance executives, public relations counsels, communists, historians, economists, sociologists and social psychologists.

Their predictions have now been tucked away to await the coming of

events. One prophecy has already been tested by time, and that has fallen down. In April, 1937, when the survey was made, more than half (56 per cent.) the group thought the President's proposal for reorganization of the Supreme Court would pass Congress.

Historians, newspaper editors, and laymen agree in their predictions most closely with the total group judgments, Dr. Cantril found. Bankers and communists feel most sure of their hunches, even though their predictions are generally opposed.

Here are some of the events in store, if these predictions are fulfilled:

The industrial union, as contrasted with the craft union, will predominate in the United States within five years, predicted by nine-tenths.

There may be a strong national Farm-Labor party by 1944, predicted by 45 per cent.

Democrats will win in 1940, predicted by three-fourths.

All electric power in the United States will be publicly owned in about 20 years, predicted by 70 per cent.

The Government will take over all life insurance, 40 per cent.

The Government will own and operate radio broadcasting in 20 years, 50 per cent.

The United States will never become a collective state, 66 per cent.

The United States will never have a Fascist dictator, 90 per cent.

A European war is coming, 80 per cent. Nearly all say within 8 years. Germany will be the aggressor, say 60 per cent., Italy, 30 per cent., Japan, 7 per cent.

A combination of nations including England, France, and Russia, will win

the war, 98 per cent.

The Spanish war will be won by the Loyalists, 50 per cent.

Another depression is on the way, 95 per cent. Most date it between 1941 and 1950.

Nazi government will last more than 20 years, say only 17 per cent.

U. S. S. R. will last more than 20 years, say 75 per cent. Soviet will endure indefinitely, 60 per cent.

People's wishes are involved in their predictions when the matters are of intimate personal interest, Dr. Cantril observed.

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not be dependent on racial, political or theological qualifications, Dr. F. R. Moulton, permanent secretary of the American Association, has urged. He contemplates the "formulation of a set of fundamental scientific principles of an ethical nature on which unanimous agreement of the delegates can be reached" and "the formulation of the maximum number of inviolable methods of international intercourse and cooperation among scientists on which the delegates can unanimously agree."

If such a common ground were established, Dr. Moulton suggests that it can be gradually enlarged until it will form a substantial basis for the general progress of civilization.

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#### GENERAL SCIENCE

## World Organization for Science Being Planned

PLANS are being laid by the American and British Associations for the Advancement of Science for the organization of international cooperation among scientists on a wider scale than exists at present.

The secretaries of the two national organizations are exchanging notes on methods of cooperation and a conference, either of British and American representatives alone, or a larger meeting of scientific leaders from all countries interested, is tentatively scheduled for this summer.

Arising from the increasing realization in both nations that scientists are responsible in large measure for the effects of science on society, the present moves for formal cooperation originate from a resolution passed by the council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at its meeting last December. The stage for this action had been set by the emphasis upon "science and society" provided by the 1936 and 1937 meetings of the British Association.

The British viewpoint is that the proposed world organization essentially would be composed of national and scientific groups that uphold the democratic ideals and mechanisms of scientific freedom. The British scientific journal, "Nature," of which Sir Richard Gregory, Bart., is editor, has led in emphasizing the need of resisting the encroachments that totalitarian governments have made upon scientific methods and liberties of thought.

The invitation to cooperation should

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bed in a California desert, and a mine in New Mexico where men worked beneath an overlying blanket of water, have made America's potash industry possible, was described at a special symposium of the American Chemical Society.

Prior to the World War, Germany with its great potash deposits at Strassfurt, monopolized the world's potash trade. These Strassfurt deposits, formed in prehistoric times by the evaporation of sea water which then covered the spot, have an origin comparable with the dry, desert-bounded Searles Lake at Trona, California.

By drilling wells into the dry lake a strong brine is encountered which contains over 35 per cent. dissolved chemicals, said W. A. Gale, chemist of the American Potash and Chemical Corporation at Trona.

The brine is rich in the salts of potassium and sodium and the separation of the various fractions by evaporation is one of the triumphs of American chemistry. The prior work in Germany was of little use in developing the present processes. The physical difficulty of founding a town of 1,800 workers in a desert region was no small feat in itself.

The Searles Lake deposits at Trona furnished 40 per cent. of America's potash needs last year, said R. W. Mumford of the same company, another speaker on the program.

As auxiliary products the salt brine produces 40 per cent. of the world's consumption of borax and boric acid, together with substantial amounts of soda ash and salt cake.

In the California brine wells the potassium chloride is obtained only after

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