

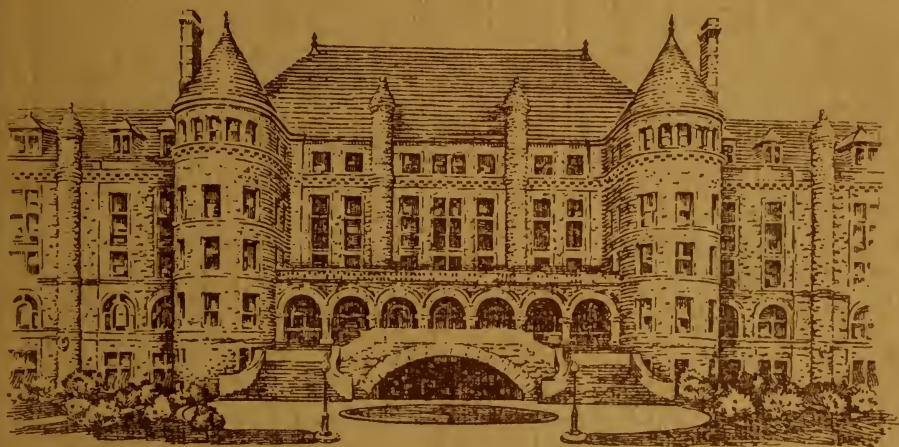
QH70
U52N41

927

1927

THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

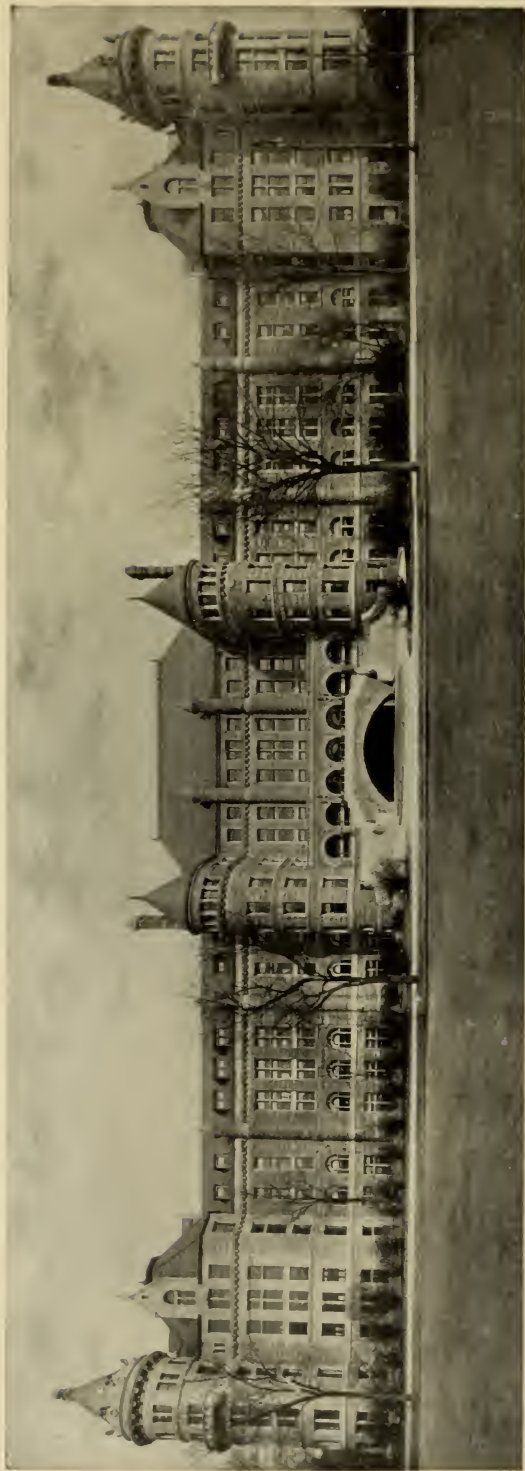
GENERAL GUIDE
TO THE
EXHIBITION HALLS



EDITED BY
FREDERIC A. LUCAS

EDITION OF 1927





THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

South Façade, facing Seventy-seventh Street

The cornerstone of the Museum, which is intended to occupy all of Manhattan Square, was laid by General Grant in 1874. The material of the building is red granite, part from Nova Scotia and part from Texas. The portion completed is about one-third of the Museum as planned, and each façade is to be, like the present, 710 feet long, the most important architecturally to be that fronting Central Park. The total floor area of the present structure, including the most recently completed East Wing and Hall of Ocean Life, is more than fourteen acres, and the total cost about \$10,786,306.48. The School Service wing recently completed cost \$691,000.

GUIDE TO THE PRESENT EXHIBITION HALLS

OF

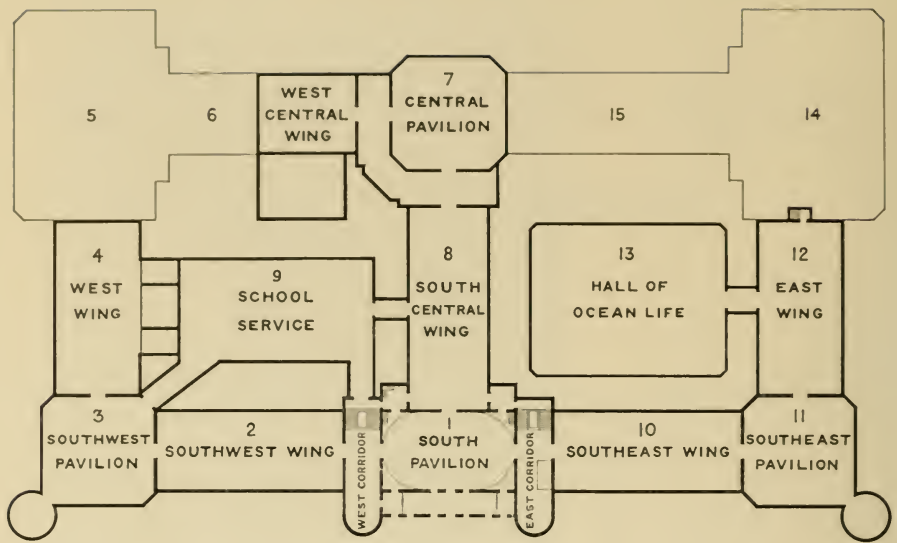
THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF
NATURAL HISTORY

FOR USE DURING THE REARRANGEMENT
OF THE COLLECTIONS

Owing to improvements in some of the exhibition halls, and extensive changes due to the transfer of exhibits to the new wing, it is not possible at present to issue a guide that will cover the entire building. This temporary guide includes the halls now open and contains illustrations of many of the more important exhibits.

Open free daily
Weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.





NOTE.—The names and numbers of the halls are to aid the visitor to locate the hall he desires to visit: they are not those officially applied to the various sections.

THE MORE IMPORTANT EXHIBITS AND WHERE THEY MAY BE FOUND

See floor plan of Museum above, for numbers and names of halls.

Administrative Offices.....	Fifth Floor, Hall 1:	South Pavilion
Africa, Collections from.....	Second Floor, Hall 4:	West Wing
Antelope Group.....	Second Floor, Hall 10:	Southeast Wing
Astronomical Exhibit.....	First Floor	West Corridor
Auditorium.....	First Floor, Hall 7:	Central Pavilion
Audubon Gallery.....	Third Floor:	West Corridor
Aztecs.....	Second Floor, Hall 2:	Southwest Wing
Big Tree.....	First Floor, Hall 10:	Southeast Wing
Birds of North America (Groups).....	Third Floor, Hall 8:	South Central Wing
Birds in Flight.....	Third Floor, Hall 8	South Central Wing
Birds of the Vicinity.....	Second Floor:	West Corridor
Birds of the World.....	Second Floor, Hall 8:	South Central Wing
Building Stones.....	First Floor, Hall 7:	Central Pavilion
Butterflies.....	Third Floor, Hall 11:	Southeast Pavilion
Chinese Collections.....	Third Floor, Hall 3:	Southwest Pavilion
Copper Queen Cave.....	Fourth Floor, Hall 8:	South Central Wing
Darwin Hall.....	First Floor, Hall 11:	Southeast Pavilion
Dinosaurs.....	Fourth Floor, Hall 12:	East Wing
Dogs.....	Third Floor, Hall 1:	South Pavilion
Elephant Group.....	Second Floor, Hall 11:	Southeast Pavilion
Eskimo Collections.....	First Floor:	North Corridor
Fishes.....	First Floor, Hall 12:	East Wing
Fly, Model.....	First Floor, Hall 9:	School Service Wing
Food.....	First Floor, Hall 9:	School Service Wing
Forestry, North American.....	First Floor, Hall 10:	Southeast Wing

Fossil Reptiles.....	Fourth Floor, Hall 11:	Southeast Pavilion
Fossil Invertebrates.....	Fourth Floor, Hall 8:	South Central Wing
Fossil Mammals (Horses, Camels, etc.).....	Fourth Floor, Hall 10:	Southeast Wing
Fossil Mammals (Mastodons, etc.).....	Fourth Floor, Hall 1:	South Pavilion
Fossil Reptiles and Fishes.....	Fourth Floor, Hall 11:	Southeast Pavilion
Gems and Precious Stones.....	Fourth Floor, Hall 2:	Southwest Wing
Geology, Historical.....	Fourth Floor, Hall 11:	South Central Wing
Gorillas.....	Second Floor, Hall 11:	Southeast Pavilion
Horse, Evolution of.....	Fourth Floor, Hall 10:	Southeast Wing
Horse, Modern.....	Fourth Floor:	West Corridor
Incas.....	Third Floor, Hall 2:	Southwest Wing
Indian Groups.....	First Floor, Hall 4:	West Wing
Indians of New York.....	First Floor, Hall 2:	Southwest Wing
Indians of South America.....	Third Floor, Hall 2:	Southwest Wing
Indians of the North Pacific Coast.....	First Floor, Hall 8:	South Central Wing
Indians of the Plains.....	First Floor, Hall 3:	Southwest Pavilion
Indians of the Southwest.....	First Floor, Hall 4:	West Wing
Indians of the Woodlands.....	First Floor, Hall 2:	Southwest Wing
Information Bureau.....	First Floor, Hall 1:	South Pavilion
Insects.....	Third Floor, Hall 11-10:	Southeast Pavilion and Southeast Wing
Invertebrates (Darwin Hall).....	First Floor, Hall 11:	Southeast Pavilion
Library, may be consulted by visitors.....	Fifth Floor, Hall 1:	West Corridor
Mammals (Synoptic Collection).....	Third Floor, Hall 10:	Southeast Wing
Mammals of North America.....	Second Floor, Hall 10:	Southeast Wing
Mammoths and Mastodons.....	Fourth Floor, Hall 1:	South Pavilion
Maori Heads, Tattooed.....	Fourth Floor, Hall 3:	Southwest Pavilion
Maya Sculptures.....	Second Floor, Hall 2:	Southwest Wing
Members' Room.....	Third Floor:	East Corridor
Meteorites, General Collection.....	First Floor, Hall 7:	South Central Wing
Minerals.....	Fourth Floor, Hall 2:	Southwest Wing
Monkeys and Apes.....	Third Floor, Hall 1:	South Pavilion
Mosquito Model.....	First Floor, Hall 11:	Southeast Pavilion
Navajo Blankets.....	First Floor, Hall 4:	West Wing
Ocean Life.....	First Floor, Hall 13:	East Wing, Entrance
Offices.....	Fifth Floor, Hall 1:	South Pavilion
Offices, Education.....	First Floor:	School Service Wing
Pacific Island Collections.....	Fourth Floor, Hall 3:	Southwest Pavilion
Peruvian Collections.....	Third Floor, Hall 2:	Southwest Wing
Philippine Collections.....	Fourth Floor, Hall 4:	West Wing
Prehistoric Man of Europe.....	Second Floor, Hall 3:	Southwest Pavilion
Prehistoric Man of North America.....	Second Floor, Hall 3:	Southwest Pavilion
Public Education, Offices.....	First Floor:	School Service Wing
Public Health Exhibits.....	First Floor, Hall 9:	School Service Wing
Seals, Sea Lions, Groups.....	First Floor, Hall 13:	Hall of Ocean Life
Shells.....	First Floor, Hall 13:	Hall of Ocean Life
Toilet Rooms (entrance to).....	First Floor, Hall 8:	South Central Wing
Totem Poles.....	First Floor, Hall 8:	South Central Wing
Trees of North America.....	First Floor, Hall 10:	Southeast Wing
Visitors' Room.....	First Floor:	Right of Entrance
Whales and Porpoises.....	First Floor, Hall 13:	Hall of Ocean Life
Woods, North American.....	First Floor, Hall 10:	Southeast Wing



STATUE OF MORRIS K. JESUP IN MEMORIAL HALL

Mr. Jesup, President of the American Museum of Natural History for more than a quarter of a century, was a staunch supporter of the institution's two aims: to be a great educational institution for the people and also a center for activity in scientific research

Just at the right of the entrance is the Visitors' Room and Information Bureau, where postcards, guide leaflets, and other museum publications are for sale and where visitors may arrange to meet their friends; the sales booth also opens on Memorial Hall. Wraps and packages may be checked at the desk on the left, near the office of the Superintendent, and wheel chairs for children and adults may be obtained free of charge.

From the lobby the visitor enters Memorial Hall and faces the statue of Morris K. Jesup, a founder, trustee and benefactor of the Museum, and for twenty-seven years its President.

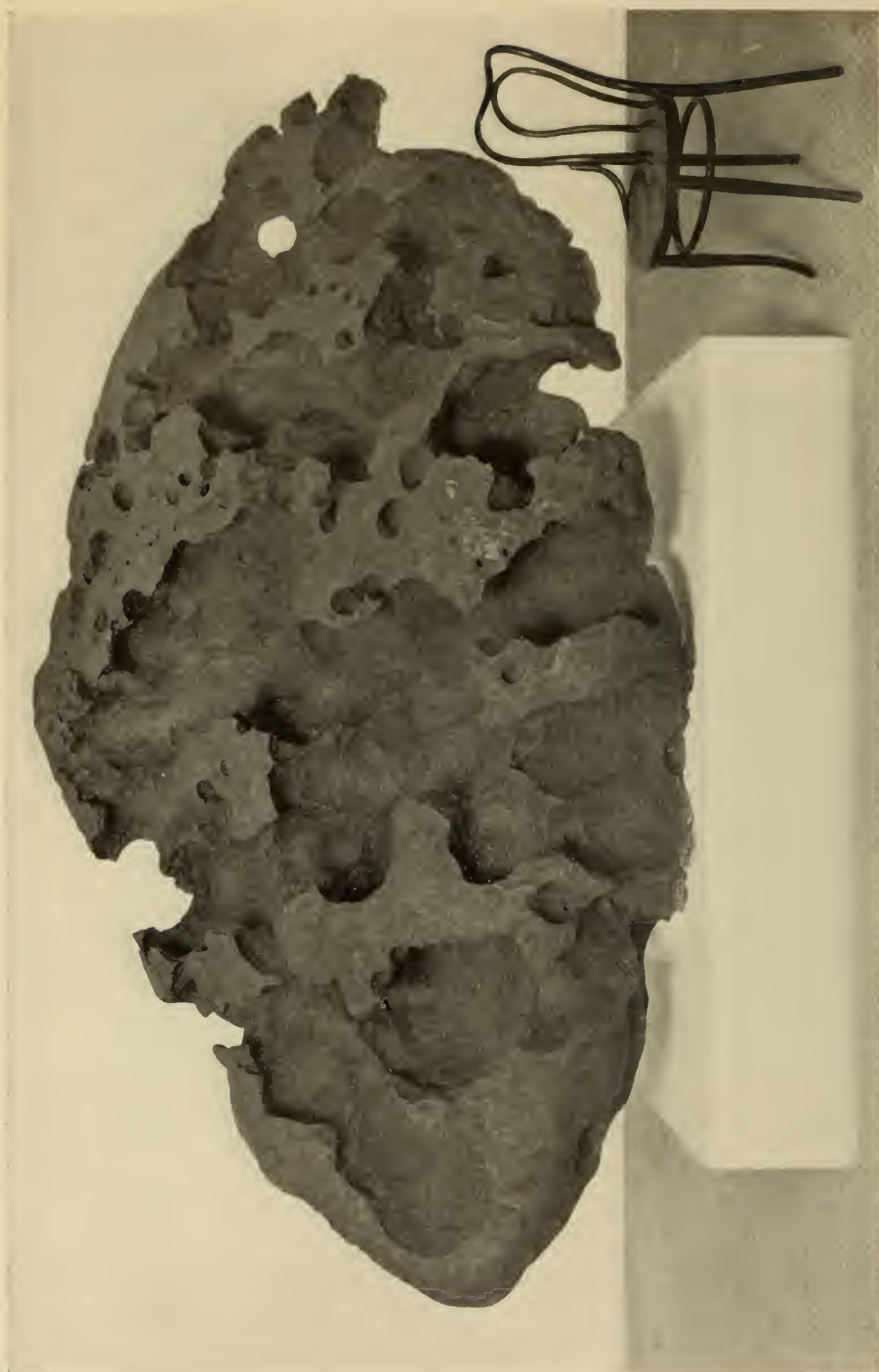
In niches around the wall are busts of noteworthy pioneers of Science in America, and circling the hall is a portion of the collection of meteorites, comprising the larger examples, among them Ahnighito, weighing 36.5 tons, the largest meteorite in the world, brought from Greenland by Peary in 1897.

On the right and left of Memorial Hall are the small Assembly Halls in which various scientific and other societies hold their meetings. The large lecture hall, seating 1400, is at the end of the Hall of Indians of the Northwest Coast.

The new SCHOOL SERVICE WING contains the offices of Education and Public Health, the slide room, where loans are made to public schools, and several lecture rooms equipped with projection apparatus for the accommodation of classes numbering from 50 to 250.

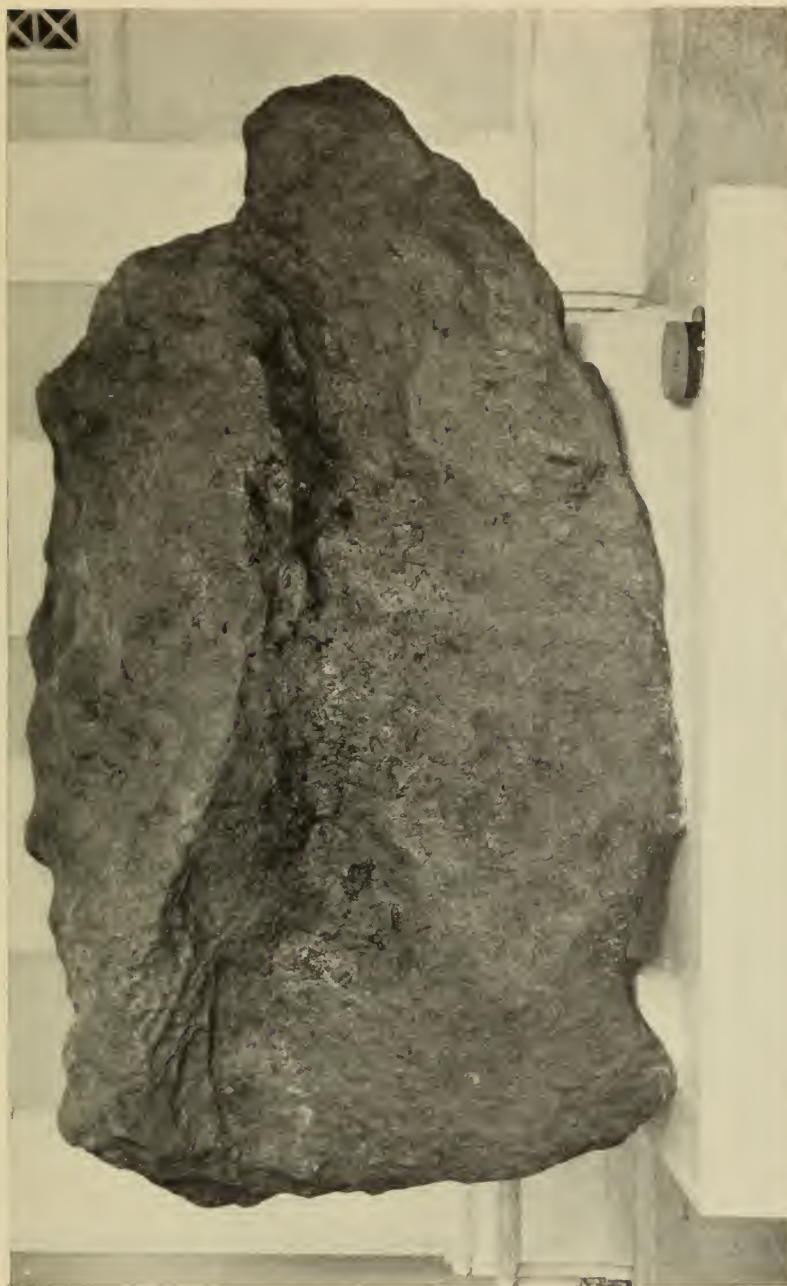
Entrance from West Corridor, and from Hall of Indians of the Pacific Coast.

The *elevators* start at intervals from the East Corridor, at the entrance to the hall of Trees of North America. The visitor may either take an elevator to the fourth floor and visit the halls as he descends, or choose his hall from the Guide or from the *Directory* opposite the elevators.



WILLAMETTE

The most interesting meteorite known and the largest ever found in the United States. Weight over 15 tons. The great pits are due to rusting while it lay in the ground



AHNIGHITO

The largest known meteorite, called by the Eskimo the tent, weight $36\frac{1}{2}$ tons; brought from Greenland by Peary in 1897 after two unsuccessful attempts

NOTEWORTHY EXHIBITS

FIRST FLOOR



MAGNOLIA, HALL OF TREES OF NORTH AMERICA

Each of the five hundred species of trees of North America is represented by a section of trunk five feet long, some of a diameter not found in the country forests to-day. Many of the specimens are accompanied by wax models of leaves, flower and fruits accurately reproduced from life. Noteworthy among them is the magnolia shown here, but the reproductions of autumn foliage are extremely beautiful



POSSIBLE FOODS

Part of the Food Exhibit, Department of Public Health. This illustrates the needs of the human body and tells how these needs may be met



PART OF THE WHARF PILE GROUP
Darwin Hall of Evolution
One of the beautiful marine groups in Darwin Hall

NOTEWORTHY EXHIBITS

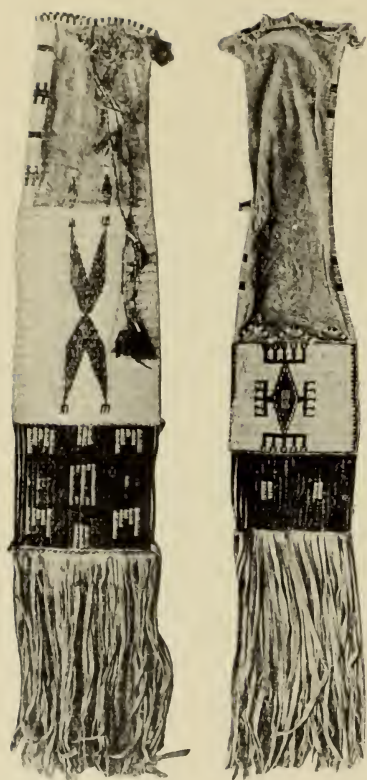
FIRST FLOOR



AN IROQUOIS WARRIOR
Indians of Eastern North America

NOTEWORTHY EXHIBITS

FIRST FLOOR



PIPE AND TOBACCO BAGS

Dakota Indians

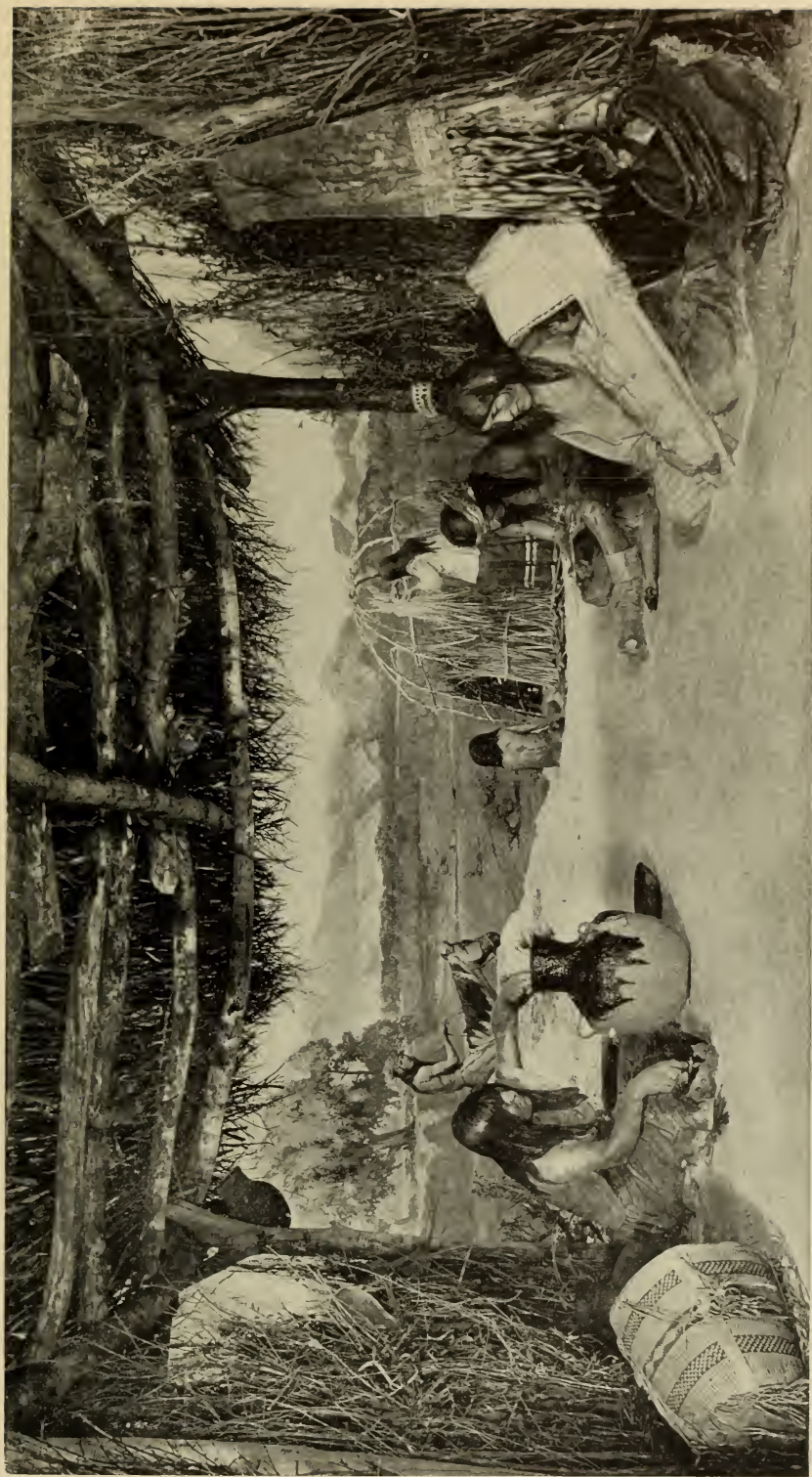


A DANCER OF THE DOG SOCIETY

Arapaho Indian

INDIANS OF THE PLAINS

Among the illustrations of the Plains Indians and their customs



THE APACHE GROUP—INDIANS OF THE SOUTHWEST

One of the large panoramic groups illustrating the life and customs of our Indians; the scene is laid in the valley of the San Carlos River, Arizona; the time is summer, and the Indians are shown engaged in the ordinary pursuits of daily life

NOTEWORTHY EXHIBITS

FIRST FLOOR



THE HOUSE OR TYPHOID FLY

Enlarged model by Ignaz Matusch

EXHIBIT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

NOTEWORTHY EXHIBITS

FIRST FLOOR



THE YELLOW FEVER MOSQUITO

INSECT CARRIERS OF DISEASE—EXHIBIT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



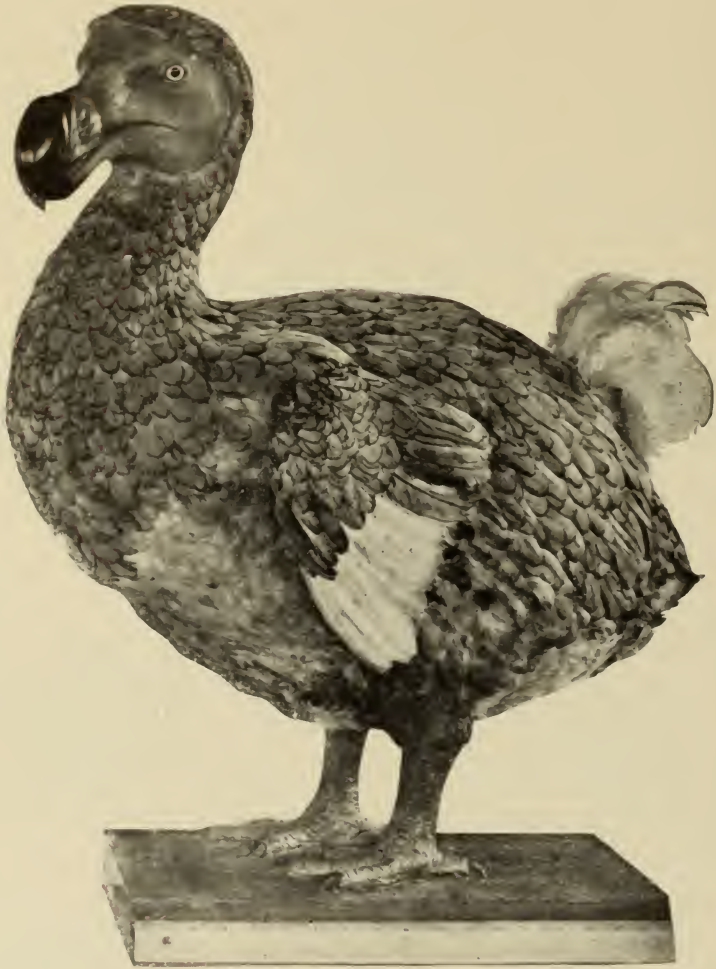
THE FLEA

One of the enlarged models made by the late Ignatz Matusch from his original studies

This is the Dog Flea, and not the Rat Flea, which is the carrier of Bubonic Plague

NOTEWORTHY EXHIBITS

SECOND FLOOR



THE DODO—BIRDS OF THE WORLD

Restored from Old Dutch paintings. This gigantic, monstrous pigeon, was abundant in Mauritius when the island was discovered, but was quickly exterminated by the early Dutch navigators. The skull, feet and bones obtained from the marshes of Mauritius are all that we possess of this strange bird

NOTEWORTHY EXHIBITS

SECOND FLOOR



THE PTARMIGAN IN WINTER

One of a series of four small groups showing the bird's seasonal changes of color brought about by molting and feather growth



LABRADOR DUCKS, NOW EXTINCT

BIRDS OF THE WORLD

From the Group in the American Museum



ON THE TRAIL, TIMBER WOLVES IN COLORADO

HALL OF NORTH AMERICAN MAMMALS

Group designed by Hobart Nichols and executed under his direction



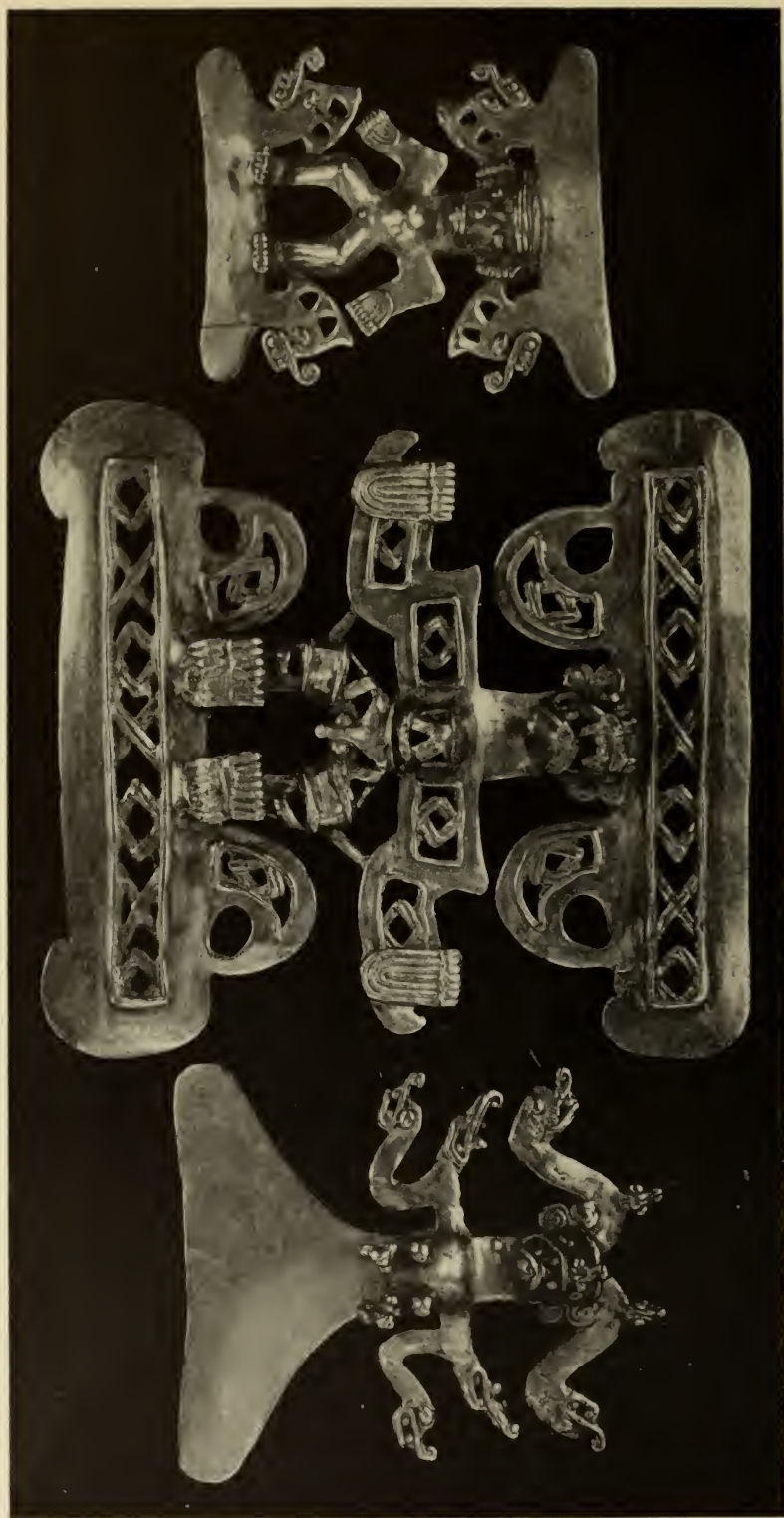
BISON COW AND CALF



PART OF PRONGHORN ANTELOPE GROUP

HALL OF NORTH AMERICAN MAMMALS

This animal is peculiar to North America and is the only hollow-horned ruminant in which the horn sheaths are shed yearly



ANCIENT GOLD OBJECTS FROM COSTA RICA

In the Minor C. Keith Collection
PREHISTORY OF SOUTH AMERICA



THE AZTEC GODDESS OF THE EARTH

PREHISTORY OF SOUTH AMERICA

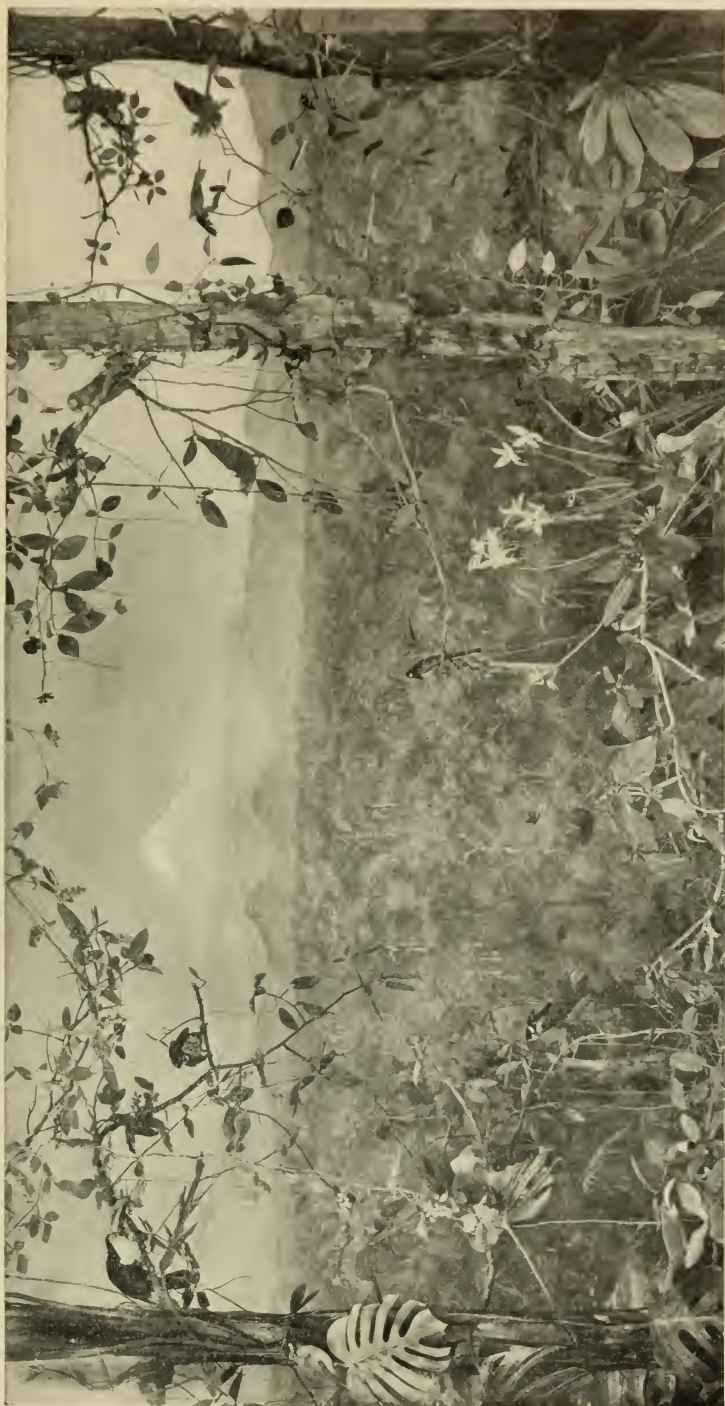
The famous statue of the Aztec Goddess of the Earth called Coatlicue, "The Serpent-skirted One," is a striking example of barbaric imagination. It was found in Mexico City near the Cathedral in the year 1791. It doubtless occupied an important place in the great ceremonial center of Tenochtitlan, the Aztec capital, and probably dates from the last quarter of the 15th century.

The head, which is the same on front and back, is formed by two repulsive serpent heads meeting face to face. The feet are furnished with claws, but the arms, which are doubled up with the elbows close to the sides, end each in a serpent's head. The skirt is a writhing mass of braided rattlesnakes. The creature wears about the neck and hanging down over the breast a necklace of human hands and hearts with a death's head pendant in the center. Coatlicue seems to have been regarded as a very old woman and as the mother of the Aztec gods



BROWN PELICAN GROUP
NORTH AMERICAN BIRD GROUPS

One of the most effective of these groups. Although protected by law the existence of the colony has been threatened by high tides and hot weather, which have destroyed the nests or caused the birds to leave; the colony has also been persecuted by tourists and by lawless fishermen



THE ORIZABA GROUP
NORTH AMERICAN BIRD GROUPS

Bird Habitat Groups. The observer is looking across the valley of the Rio Blanca, over the tropical forest, to Mount Orizaba



TREPHINED SKULLS FROM PREHISTORIC PERUVIAN GRAVES

That at the right is the skull first described by Squiers



PERUVIAN MUMMY BUNDLES AND MUMMY

The ancient Peruvians wrapped their dead in fabrics of fine cotton and wool, then covering it with a sack of strong cloth. The mummy "bundle" thus produced was often given a "false head" of cloth filled with cotton or vegetable fibre. Climatic conditions in Peru have preserved these mummies and their wrappings during many centuries

ANCIENT PERU



JAPANESE BEETLE GROUP

INSECT LIFE

One of a series recently installed in this Hall. This is the beetle that caused havoc in the apple and peach orchards of New Jersey in 1924

NOTEWORTHY EXHIBITS

THIRD FLOOR



THE BUTTERFLY GROUP

INSECT LIFE

The Monarch Butterfly—migrating. This group includes 1203 butterflies

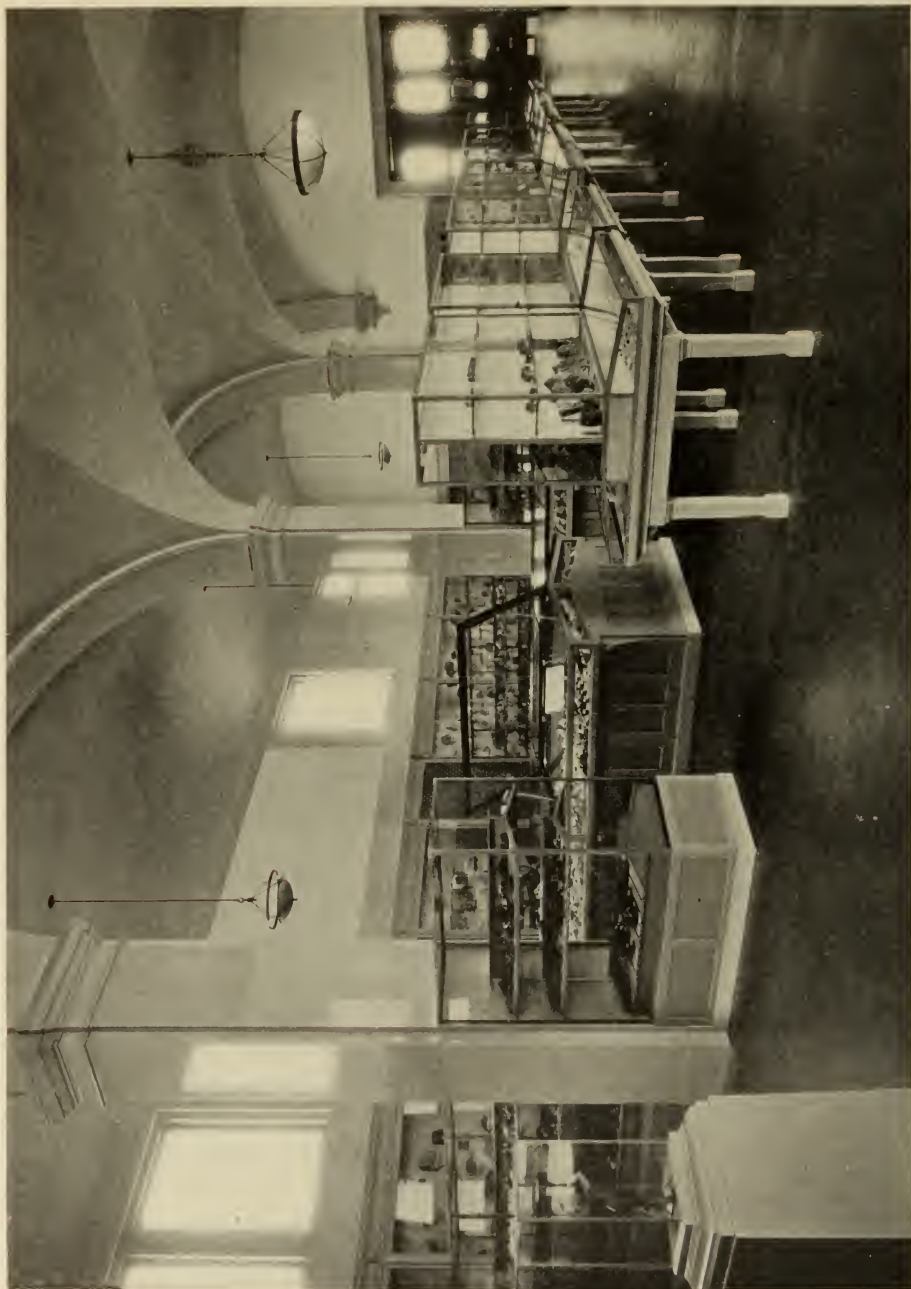


Copyright

CRO-MAGNON ARTISTS OF SOUTHERN FRANCE

AGE OF MAN (HISTORY OF THE EARTH)

Painting the procession of Mammoths in the Cavern of Pont-du-Gaume. One of the Murals in the Hall of the Age of Man



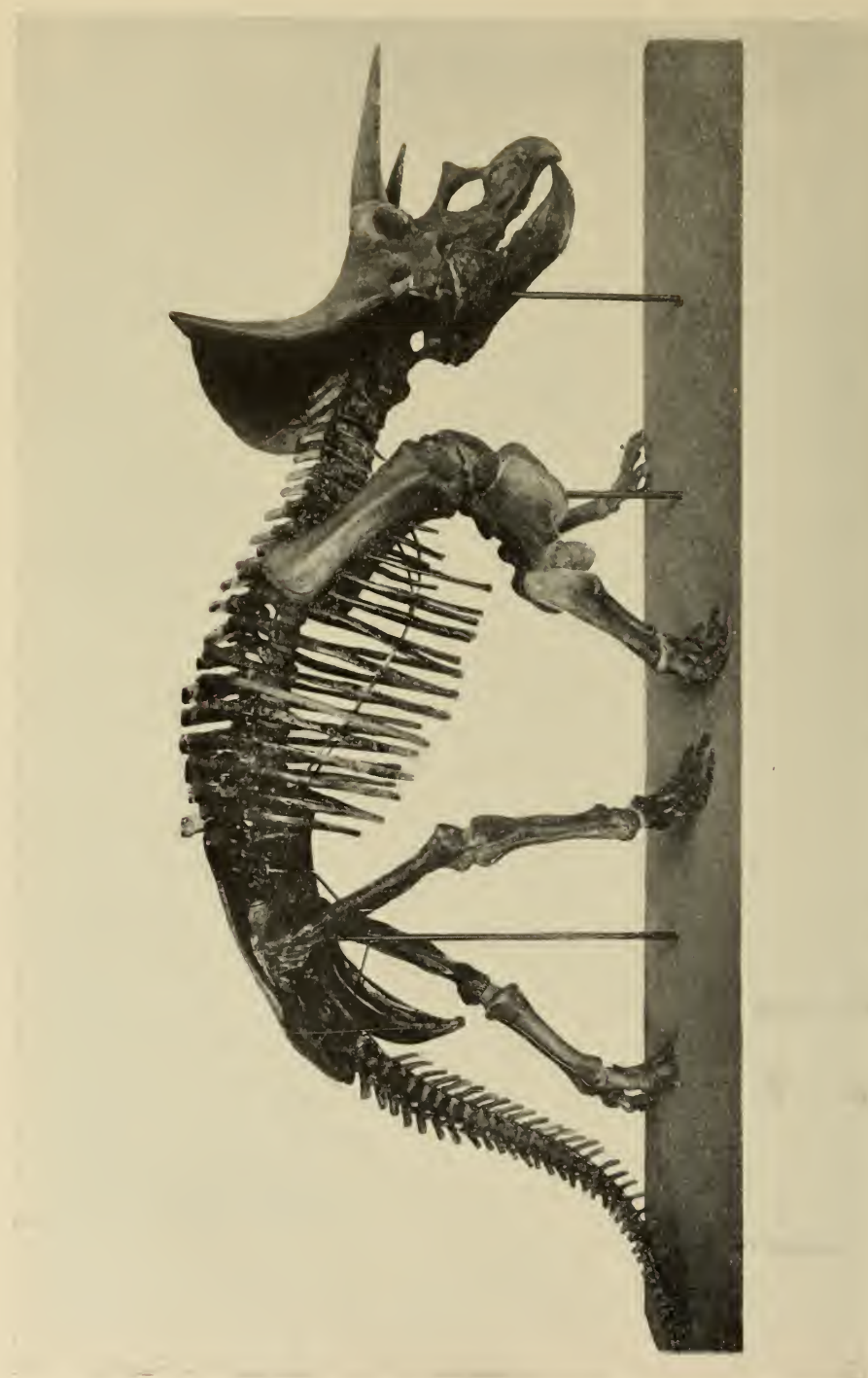
CENTRAL VIEW OF THE MORGAN HALL OF MINERALS AND GEMS



QUARTZ CRYSTAL FROM AUBURN, MAINE

A single crystal of quartz measuring $26 \times 19 \times 13$ inches and weighing 253 pounds

MINERALS AND GEMS (MORGAN HALL)



HORNED DINOSAUR TRICERATOPS

This animal was a contemporary of the great Tyrannosaurus near the end of the Age of Reptiles and its skeleton is one of the more recent additions to the collection of Dinosaurs



SOME OF THE FAMOUS DINOSAUR EGGS FROM MONGOLIA

Collected by the Third Asiatic Expedition

AGE OF MAMMELS (OSBOEN HALL)

NOTEWORTHY EXHIBITS

FOURTH FLOOR



A BIT OF WEYERS CAVE

HISTORY OF THE EARTH

Part of the section reproduced in the Hall of Geology



THE SLIDE LIBRARY

Public School teachers selecting slides for class-room use. In 1925 no less than 697,171 slides were loaned to the Public Schools of New York City

OFFICES OF EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH IN NEW SCHOOL SERVICE WING



THE BLIND STUDYING ASTRONOMY
CLASS ROOM, NEW SCHOOL SERVICE WING



DEPARTMENT OF PREPARATION

The new Asiatic Hall temporarily used for the department of preparation. In the foreground a group of Nilgai obtained by the Faunthorpe-Vernay Expedition

FIRST FLOOR

DARWIN HALL (Hall 11: Southeast Pavilion.) Tide Pool, Wharf Pile, and other Marine and Shore Groups; exhibits illustrating Variation under Domestication, Variation in Nature and Struggle for Existence. Malaria Mosquito. Beautiful models in glass of Invertebrates.

TREES OF NORTH AMERICA (Hall 10: Southeast Wing).

Examples of all kinds accompanied by reproductions of their foliage. The section of Sequoia at the left was 1341 years old, but was still a young and vigorous tree.

INDIANS OF THE PACIFIC COAST (Hall 8: South Central Wing).

Haida Canoe, Totem Poles, Chilkat Blankets, Baskets, Ceremonial objects. Murals. In the corridor beyond are the Eskimo collections, Meteorites and Building Stones.

Entrance to School Service Wing

INDIANS OF THE EASTERN WOODLANDS (Hall 2: Southwest Wing). Wampum, Masks, Clothing, Canoes.

INDIANS OF THE PLAINS (Hall 3: Southwest Pavilion). Indian Tipi, Sun Dance Group, Buffalo Robes, Beadwork.

INDIANS OF THE SOUTHWEST (Hall 4: West Wing). Navajo, Hopi and Apache Groups, Navajo Blankets, Pottery, Baskets.

HALL OF OCEAN LIFE (Hall 13). Groups of Sea Lions and Seals, Skeletons of Whales, Reproductions of Porpoises, Collection of Shells.

PUBLIC HEALTH (Hall 9: School Service Wing.) Beautiful models of Fly, Mosquito and Flea, how diseases are spread and how prevented. Water supply, sewage disposal.

SCHOOL SERVICE WING (Hall 9). Offices of the Department of Education and Public Health; Slide Room, where lantern slides are issued to public schools; lecture halls and class rooms. Entrance from Hall 8, South Central Wing and from West Corridor.

ASTRONOMICAL EXHIBIT West Corridor

SECOND FLOOR

MAMMALS OF NORTH AMERICA (Hall 10: Southeast Wing).

Moose, Bison, Wolf, Puma, Mountain Goat, Musk-ox, Caribou, Beaver, Elk and many other Groups.

AFRICAN ELEPHANTS (Hall 11: Southeast Pavilion). Group intended for center of projected African Hall. Lion Group, Gorillas.

BIRDS OF THE WORLD (Hall 8: South Central Wing). Their classification and distribution. Dodo, Great Auk, Labrador Duck, Wild Pigeon, Birds of Paradise. Flying Birds.

BIRDS OF THE VICINITY (West Corridor). Those found within fifty miles of New York City, including many small groups.

ANCIENT MONUMENTS OF MEXICO (Hall 2: Southwest Wing) and Central America: Keith Gold, Stone and Pottery Collection; Ancient Maya Documents.

EARLY MAN (Hall 3: Southwest Pavilion) in America and Europe. Stone Implements, Rude Carvings and Paintings made by Pre-historic Man. In the near-by Tower exhibits illustrating the races of Man and their characters.

AFRICA, ITS MEN AND MAMMALS (Hall 4: West Wing). Okapi and White Rhinoceros. Collections from the Congo.

THIRD FLOOR

MAMMALS (Hall 10: Southeast Wing). Their kinds and distribution, and other information about them. Reproduction of a Blue Whale 76 feet long; Skeleton of Jumbo.

INSECTS (Hall 11: Southeast Pavilion). Their classification, habits and relations to man, illustrated by groups and many single specimens; note the group of Migratory Butterflies which contains 1200 specimens and the new groups illustrating the life history and habits of various insects.

REPTILES (Hall 12: East wing). Groups and single specimens.

MAN AND APES (Hall 3: South Pavilion). Monkeys of the World, shown by groups and many single specimens.

GROUPS OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS (Hall 8: South Central Wing). Preëminent for their truthful portrayal of the life of birds in their native haunts.

SHELLS. The collection has been transferred to the Hall of Ocean Life. On the stairway AUDUBON RELICS, paintings and drawings.

SOUTH AMERICA (Hall 2: Southwest Wing). The land of the Incas. Gold, Silver, Pottery and Stone Objects: Prehistoric Textiles, Mummies from Peru and Chile.

ARTS AND INDUSTRIES OF CHINA (Hall 3: Southwest Pavilion). Bronzes, Porecelain, Embroidery and Carvings in Wood, Stone and Ivory. Clothing, Utensils and War Implements from Siberia. Objects from Tibet.

FOURTH FLOOR

AGE OF MAN (Hall 1: South Pavilion). Exhibits showing successive stages in the prehistoric human races of Europe. The cave-men and the animals they hunted. Mammoths and Mastodons. Ground-sloth group and other animals of prehistoric times. Wall paintings by Charles R. Knight showing prehistoric men and animals.

FOSSIL MAMMALS (Hall 10: Southeast Wing). Evolution of the Horse. The largest and finest exhibit of fossil ancestors of the Horse. Fossil camels, rhinoceroses and titanotheres also illustrate evolution. Various other fossil mammals; the collection is especially rich in the rare primitive mammals of the Eocene and Paleocene.

FOSSIL REPTILES. Ancient Reptiles, Amphibians, and Fishes.

DINOSAURS, being transferred to new east wing.

GEOLOGY (Hall 8: South Central Wing). Copper Queen and Weyers Caves; Copper Queen Mine Model; General Geological Collection; Fossil Invertebrates; Relief Models of Grand Canyon and other noteworthy regions.

MODERN HORSES (West Corridor). Skeletons of wild and domesticated horses, and exhibits showing details of structure. Skeletons of some notable race horses.

GEMS AND MINERALS (Hall 2: Southwest Wing). General Collection of Minerals, one of the finest in the world. The Morgan Gem Collection, comprising Gems, Precious Stones, and objects of Jade.

PACIFIC ISLANDS (Hall 3: Southwest Pavilion). Tahitian Fire-walker, Maori Warrior, Maori Tattooed Heads. Feather Capes, Tapa Cloth.

PHILIPPINE COLLECTION (Hall 4: West Wing). Tree House. Head Axes, Bead Work.

THE NEW OR EAST WING

The new wing will contain the exhibits that have been crowded in halls where they did not belong and the material that has been gathered during the past few years and for which there has been no place.

On the first floor, opening from Darwin Hall, will be the fishes that have been scattered in different places, especially in the hall of birds, where they were most incongruous.

From the Hall of Fishes a corridor leads to the gallery of the Hall of Ocean Life to which are being transferred the whales, porpoises and seals—dispersed in many places—and other new pieces in course of preparation. Noteworthy among these is a group of northern sea lions which comprises some of the finest examples of these animals ever mounted.

The collection of 15000 kinds of shells formerly in the West Wing is being re-arranged on the gallery.

The second floor will be devoted to the great mammals of Asia and here will be shown groups secured by the Faunthorpe-Vernay Expedition to India and by the Third Asiatic Expedition. Among them are the Rhinoceros and the Wild Indian Elephant, Gaur Ox, Takin, Goral and Tiger.

On the third floor will be the Reptiles, properly displayed for the first time and including such new and interesting groups as the Galapagos Iguanas, the Gila Monster and the Giant Tree Frog.

In the Hall of Dinosaurs, fourth floor, will be gathered the largest and finest collection in existence of these extinct giants of the reptile world. The specimens cabined, cribbed and confined in various halls, associated heretofore with wholly unrelated mammals, will now have quarters where they may be seen to advantage.

Some of these halls will be opened during the year, 1927.

THE HISTORY AND WORK OF THE MUSEUM

THE American Museum of Natural History was founded and incorporated in 1869 for the purpose of establishing a Museum and Library of Natural History; of encouraging and developing the study of Natural Science; of advancing the general knowledge of kindred subjects, and to that end of furnishing popular instruction. For eight years its temporary home was in the Arsenal in Central Park, during which time many important collections were secured.

The cornerstone of the present building in Manhattan Square was laid in 1874 by President U. S. Grant; in 1877 the first section (South Central Wing) was completed, and on December 22, 1877, the Museum was formally opened by President R. B. Hayes.

The Museum building is one of the largest municipal structures in the City, and has cost approximately \$10,786,306.48. The South Facade is 710 feet in length: the total area of the floor is about 15 acres, of which eleven and one half are open to the public. The building when completed is designed to occupy all of Manhattan Square.

The building is erected and largely maintained by the City, through the Department of Parks. Building funds are provided for by issues of Corporate Stock, which have been made at intervals since 1871. The annual appropriations, known as the Maintenance Fund, is devoted to the heating, lighting, repair and supervision of the building and care of the collections.

The Museum is under the control of a self-perpetuating Board of Trustees, which has the entire direction of all its activities as well as the guardianship of all the collections and exhibits. The Trustees give their services without remuneration.

The funds which enable the Trustees to purchase specimens, to carry on explorations and various forms of scientific work, to prepare and publish scientific papers and to enlarge the library, are raised by contributions from the Trustees and other friends. These contributions come from three sources—namely, (1) the Endowment Fund, (2) Membership Fund, (3) voluntary subscriptions.

The interest of the Endowment Fund, which comprises gifts and bequests from many friends of the Museum, includes that of Mr. Jesup, and the still more magnificent bequest of Mrs. Jesup may be used for additions to the collections, research, and for publication. It cannot be used for the care or repair of the building, construction of cases or other maintenance work that is properly the province of the City to provide for.

The Membership Fund, derived from the subscriptions of Members, may be devoted to any purpose and is of particular importance in the educational work of the Museum.

Voluntary contributions may be used for general purposes or for such special object as the donor may designate; some of the most valuable and important collections have been obtained by such gifts, as for example the Morgan collection of gems and the Juillard collection of ancient Peruvian pottery and textiles, and many of the more important expeditions have been financed in this way, notably the Third Asiatic Expedition, now in the field.

There are at present about 8500 members. Annual Members contribute \$10 a year for the support of the Museum; Life Members make a single contribution of \$200. Membership fees are of great service in promoting the growth of the institution.

E. Ray Lankester, as Director of the British Museum of Natural History, stated that:

"The purposes of a great national museum of natural history are: (1) To procure by its own explorers or by the voluntary assistance of independent naturalists the actual specimens upon which accurate knowledge of the animals, plants, and minerals of the earth's surface, and more especially of the national territory, is based; to preserve and arrange these collections for study by all expert naturalists, and to facilitate, directly or indirectly, the publication (in the form of catalogues or monographs) of the knowledge so obtained—with a view to its utilization, not only in the progress of science, but in the service of the State. (2) To exhibit in the best possible way for the edification of the public, at whose charges these collections are made and maintained, such specimens as are fitted for exposure in public galleries, with a view to the intelligent and willing participation of the people in the maintenance of the Museum."

As the Museum is emphatically "for the people," special attention is given to making the exhibits attractive and interesting as well as instructive, and it has ever been in the front rank, when not a leader, in this branch of museum work.

At present the various departments of the Museum are grouped under four heads or divisions as noted below.

The exhibits under this head show the appearance and habits of man in a natural state, or when and where little influenced by the historic cultures of the Old World. Special emphasis is given to the native tribes of the Americas, and their costumes, utensils, etc., arranged according to the geographical divisions of the continents, thus demonstrating the relation of the environment to native life. Habitat groups, murals, and photographs, are added to complete the picture. But these

exhibits are based upon data from tribes living since 1492, so for the life of the Indian before 1492 special archaeological exhibits are arranged containing stone implements, pottery, and other non-perishable objects, as in the Mexican and Peruvian sections. In a similar manner exhibits for Africa, Asia, Oceania, and other parts of the world are presented. Finally, the bodily and facial traits of the different races are shown by plaster casts and photographs from the living, and of extinct races by reconstructions made from the study of skeletons.

Deals with the structure of the earth and the animal life of the past. In the Hall of Minerals are the elements, or substances of which the earth is composed, while in the Hall of Geology are shown the combinations of minerals into rocks and the results of the forces by which these rocks have been wrought upon to bring the surface of the earth into its present shape and condition.

**The Division of
Geology and
Palæontology**

The exhibits in palæontology display by means of fossils the succession of life on the globe, the various stages that have been passed through before the life of the present time was reached.

They show very clearly that not only were the animals of the past ages very different from those that are living now but that as we go back in time the animals become simpler, or lower, in form.

While the effort is made to give a sketch of the characteristic life of different periods, naturally the greatest amount of space in the exhibition halls is devoted to the larger and more striking animals such as the Horses and Dinosaurs.

As in other divisions, the objects shown form but a small part of the collections, the reserve or study series containing many thousand specimens and forming a reference library of objects for students of the past.

Zoology includes the animal life of the world, from Man and his relatives to forms so minute that they are visible only under the microscope. Zoogeography deals with the distribution of animals.

The purpose of the exhibits is to show their classification, or relations to one another; their habits, and their distribution, for some kinds of animals are confined to, or characteristic of, particular parts of the world.

The exhibits in Darwin Hall, which are devoted especially to the classification of animals—their relation to one another and combination in groups according to their structure, give an epitome of animal life from which one gathers that the backboned animals—the class which includes man—form as far as numbers go but a small part of the animal kingdom. The Class of Mammals is treated at length in the Synoptic Series of Mammals.

The purposes of the Museum so far as zoology is concerned are perhaps best illustrated by the birds. The Hall of Birds of the World is devoted to their classification and distribution, one series of specimens including examples of all the principal groups or families, while other series show the characteristic birds of various great areas or regions, such as North America, Africa and Australasia. The birds of a single locality, the Vicinity of New York, are shown together, and many groups illustrate their habits and habitats—the general character of the regions where they dwell.

Other branches of the Animal Kingdom, Reptiles, Fishes, Insects and Shells, are treated in other halls so far as limitation of space will permit, but the rapid growth of the collections, due to the importance of securing examples of the animals while yet they are to be had, has brought about great congestion in the exhibition halls.

The study series of various departments in this division include many thousand specimens of vertebrates and invertebrates, which not only offer material for research but preserve a record of the fast changing and vanishing life of the world.

While all the exhibits are or are intended to be educational, the Museum, through its Department of Education, carries on direct educational work in the schools. It is the function of this department to present the results of the other departments of the Museum in simple form to the teachers and pupils of the schools. This is done by means of the “Circulating Nature Study Collections” of animals, minerals and other objects of such small or moderate size that they can be contained in small cases and sent from school to school; by the loan of lantern slides on various topics, often accompanied by prepared lectures on the subject illustrated, and by means of lectures delivered by members of the Staff at the Museum and in certain selected “lecture centers.” There is also a series of exhibits loaned to branch libraries, and special instruction provided for the blind. Visiting classes of school children are also permitted to study the exhibits at the Museum under the guidance of Museum instructors.

A course of evening lectures is given every Spring and Fall for the Members, to which admission is to be had by ticket; also courses of Science Stories are given on Saturday mornings for the children of members. Another series of lectures, free to the public, is given in conjunction with the Board of Education on Tuesday and Saturday evenings.

Information as to natural science and recent discoveries is still further disseminated through the Museum publications, through the Museum Library, now containing more than 100,000 volumes, and through a Public Information Committee which from time to time sends out prepared bulletins to the press all over the country.

The completion of the School Service Wing will enable the Museum to greatly extend its usefulness in the way of lectures, exhibits and conferences with teachers and to carry on within its walls work which it could not undertake for lack of the necessary rooms and facilities. This is an important matter for while the sending of collections to schools is a recognized branch of museum work it is even more important to bring pupils to the Museum since the finest, most instructive, and largest exhibits must of necessity stay within the exhibition halls.

The scientific side of the work of the Museum is based upon its study collections, which are mainly gathered by the museum expeditions:

Study

Collections

They include Anthropology and the various branches of Natural History with the exception of Botany, and are especially rich in Fossil Vertebrates and objects from the North American Indians. These study col-

lections are not merely for the benefit of students, but preserve a record of the fast-vanishing wild life of the world and of the life and custom of primitive peoples, and especially of the North American Indians. But for museums we should have no examples of many of our animals (a striking instance is that of the Passenger Pigeon) and no records of the customs and industries of various primitive peoples.

In the case of Natural History the vast majority of the specimens, particularly of insects and birds, are in these study collections which are cared for, so far as possible, in closed metal cases, in darkened rooms, light, dust, and such insects as moths and dermestids being enemies against whose attacks the Museum must constantly be on its guard.

The Museum Library, located on the fifth floor, contains about 100,000 volumes on various branches of natural history (save botany), anthropology and travel. It is particularly strong in

Library

vertebrate palæontology and scientific periodicals. Like other museum libraries, it is of necessity a reference library, but, except on Sundays and holidays, may be freely used by the public during the hours when the Museum is open.

The Osborn Library, founded by President Osborn, is also on the fifth floor and contains works on vertebrate palæontology and related subjects.

The publications of the Museum, aside from the *Annual Report*, fall naturally into two groups: scientific and popular. The former, comprising the *Memoirs*, *Anthropological Papers* and *Bulletin*,

Publications

contain information gathered by the various expeditions, or derived from the study of material collected; they are from the nature of their subjects mainly of a technical character. The *Memoirs* consist of the larger, more important papers, or those that call for unusually large illustrations. These are issued from time to time as occasion may demand. The *Bulletin* comprises the shorter papers, those that contain information that it is desirable to issue promptly, and two volumes of

about 500 pages are issued annually. The scientific papers are distributed, largely in exchange, to museums and libraries throughout the world.

The popular publications include the *Journal*, *Leaflets*, *Guides*, and *Handbooks*, and are intended for the information of the general public; they are plainly written accounts of the exhibits, or of the subjects they illustrate, and naturally contain much more information than can be given on a label. The *Journal*, now *Natural History*, begun in 1900, is the means of promptly informing the Museum members of the work of the institution, giving the results of the many expeditions, telling of the collections made, or more important information gathered. It also describes at length interesting or noteworthy installations, and notes the accessions to the various departments, changes in the personnel of the Museum, and elections to Membership. The illustrated *Guide Leaflets* deal with exhibits of particular interest or importance, such as the Habitat Groups of Birds, the Evolution of the Horse, the Indians of Manhattan, calling attention to important objects on exhibition, and giving information in regard to them. The *Handbooks*, eleven of which have been issued, deal with subjects or topics rather than objects. Thus the Plains Indians Handbook, by Dr. Wissler, is not merely a guide to the exhibition hall, but tells of the life and customs of these Indians, their language, political organizations, religious beliefs and ceremonies.

The distribution of these popular publications is a part of the educational work of the Museum, as are exhibits and lectures, and they are often sold below the cost of publication, as is done by other museums.

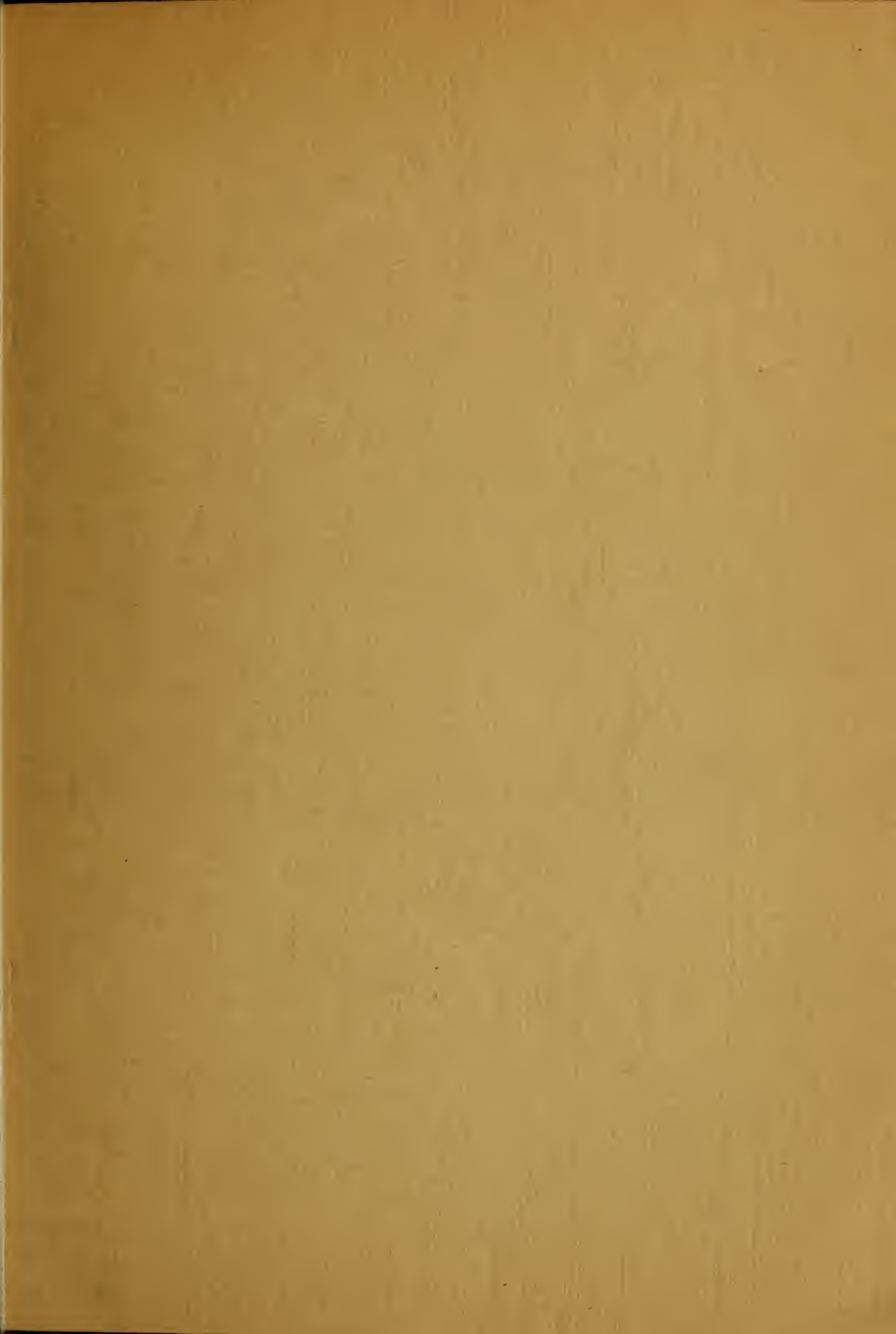
An important part of the Museum, not seen by the public, is the workshops, located in the basement and provided with machinery of the most improved pattern. Here, among other things, are constructed the various types of cases used in the Museum, including the light, metal-frame case, devised in the institution.

Another most important part is the fully equipped printing establishment where all the printing of the Museum is now done.

Still other rooms, which, of necessity, are not open to the public, are the laboratories, wherein is carried on the varied work of preparing exhibits, work which calls for the services of a very considerable number of artists and artisans.

Here are cast, modelled or mounted, the figures for the many groups from Man to Myxine; here leaves are made to grow and flowers to bloom as accessories for beasts, birds and fishes, to say nothing of reptiles and amphibians, and here, with painstaking care, are slowly created in glass and wax the magnified copies of invertebrates.

From all this may be gathered that a museum is a very busy place, much more so than the casual visitor is apt to imagine. In fact, a very good museum man has said that a museum is much like an iceberg, seven-eighths of it under water and invisible.





FOR THE PEOPLE

FOR EDUCATION

FOR SCIENCE