

It is easy to be oversanguine about such indications, but it is well within the range of probability that innumerable small museums of science and history will come into being under the stimulus of outdoor education.

#### BRANCH MUSEUMS

For 20 years or more branch museums have been discussed and, in a limited way, they have already become a reality. There are trailsides and historical houses, and also there are several examples of specialized branch museums, separate children's departments, as well as extension exhibits in libraries and other public buildings, and museum rooms in schools. However, none of these is a branch in the full sense of the word as applied, for example, to a branch library.

Museums—especially those in large cities—need branches located in different sections for the purpose of passing on to neighborhood groups those advantages and services which a centralized museum offers to a scattered and necessarily limited clientele. Recent years have brought this objective clearly into view, and prepared the way for the first functional branch to be established at Philadelphia in 1931. A report of this in some future survey will doubtless have other parallel developments to chronicle.

#### MUSEUMS IN SMALL COMMUNITIES

It will bear repeating, if only to emphasize an important finding of Part I, that an overwhelming majority of the new museums are being established in places with fewer than 100,000 inhabitants. The point of greatest activity in museum founding moves steadily down the scale of population. Large cities are now relatively well equipped.

Comparison of new museums in places having fewer than 100,000 inhabitants with museums in larger cities shows the form of organization to be typically the same in both environments. The most striking difference is the relative meagerness of support by the local government in small places. Also, in small places, history is relatively better represented.

Examination of cases individually makes it clear that the proportion of active and well-rounded institutions in populations under 100,000 is quite as large as in populations over that size, and that the effectiveness of active little museums in little places is fully as great in relation to their responsibilities as that of active big museums in the big cities. Statistics do not deceive in showing that the day of small museums in small communities has come.