

carry on scientific research in their own laboratories. One laboratory affiliated with a museum was the only one in a whole country which had the apparatus for making a certain substance of vital importance in the making of a much-needed high explosive, and this laboratory has made tons of this substance for the allies. Specimens to be used for research are stored in scientific museums and here they are available for war research. From here vast numbers of publications are issued, so the machinery of distributing the results of the research is already at hand. One man experienced in this work became editor for the U. S. Red Cross. Some museums confine their attention to the locality where they are situated and from nearby river-bottom to nearby hill-top enough natural-history specimens may be collected to fill them. Others are for little children, and kindergartners are employed to instruct the children by means of the museum specimens. Some are chiefly for recreation, although their exhibits are all instructive.

In war time, recreation is especially needed to relieve the unnatural strain. The exhibits in some museums are priceless. In others they are inexpensive by-products of other work, but these latter may be as useful as expensive exhibits. In some the exhibits are made by experts. In others useful exhibits may be prepared under expert direction by local carpenters and laborers. However, such work as painting the backgrounds of exhibits, making glass models of parts of flowers or representations of objects in wax required for exhibits in some wealthy museums can not be done by untrained men. Some museum cases cost hundreds of dollars, but a useful exhibition case, suitable at least for schools or temporary exhibits, may be made for ten dollars wherever window sashes are available. The cost of cases is, therefore, no argument for not making temporary war-time exhibits. Police and fire protection which can not well be had for objects in private homes is to be had for specimens deposited in any large museum. Specimens of mammals and birds were formerly stuffed, but in modern museums they are now mounted according to a model, just as a house is built according to an architect's plans and specifications. In this way groups are made representing the specimens of animals and plants as if they were actually alive in their natural homes. These peace-time activities of museums were discussed at some length and were illustrated in my article on the "Development of Museums and their Relation to Education," in THE SCIENTIFIC MONTHLY for