

PREFACE

IN July, 1931, Sir Henry Miers and Mr. S. F. Markham came to Canada to begin a Survey of the Museums of the British Empire which was financed by the Carnegie Corporation. We had for some time considered the necessity of having made a survey of the museums of the University, and advantage was taken of the visit of Sir Henry and Mr. Markham to ask their advice.

They suggested that the British Association of Museums undertake a detailed survey and make recommendations as to what should be the policy, the future development and building programme for a modern university museum.

After careful consideration Sir Henry Miers asked Cyril Fox, Ph.D. (Cantab.) F.S.A., Director of the National Museum of Wales, and former Superintendent of the Field Laboratories of Cambridge, to undertake this important work, independently of the Carnegie Survey in Canada.

As a result of a series of studies carefully carried out by various corporations in the United States, and by the Carnegie United Kingdom Trustees of London, England, museums in the United States, Great Britain, Germany and France are now spending a great deal of thought and money in rearranging their collections for academic and popular use with great practical advantage. Long before any other country took the matter up seriously, however, Sweden led the world, as she still does, in the skill and thoroughness with which her museums in cities, towns and villages throughout the country were developed in the service of education.

As Dr. Fox points out, the work of education involves more and more widely the development of the powers of observation, and in this process, where students learn by seeing, museums are an essential part of the equipment of a university. They are, in their peculiar way, the visible mirrors of the past.