SOME FRENCH AND GERMAN GEOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL INSTITUTIONS

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THE following notes, which may be useful to geologists and biologists, were compiled during a series of visits in the past few months to several museums and universities in Europe, while I was attached to the U.S. Army. I have been to all of those mentioned below, with the exceptions of Monaco and Berlin. All German universities seen were operating at about half pre-war enrolment during the winter semester 1944-45.

France

Monaco. The director of the Oceanographic Museum, Dr. Richard, died in February. His successor is Commandant Rouch. The Museum is said to have been slightly damaged by the explosion of a 'porpoising' torpedo last summer.

Paris. Prof. E. de Margerie, now in his early eighties, is well, and is actively engaged in the publication of his memoirs ("Critique et Géologie"), a four-volume quarto historical survey of the development of some aspects of geological and geographical science since 1884. The first volume has appeared recently (Armand Colin, 500 fr.). The others are in advanced stages of preparation and publication.

No important changes have occurred at the Sorbonne or the École des Mines. At the Jardin des Plantes the director of the Laboratoire de Paléontologie is now Dr. Arambourg.

Strasbourg. Most of the University staff, including the Service Géologique d'Alsace, headed by Dr. G. Dubois, were evacuated to Clermont-Ferrand during 1939-40. Geological and geographical books, maps and specimens left in Strasbourg were used by the Germans, and the choice things taken into Germany proper. Prof. O. Haas, whose personal library and collections from central Africa are intact, alone remained behind throughout the occupation. The geological building is undamaged by bombing.

Germany

Berlin. At the Bavarian Geological Survey, I met two geologists, one Dutch, the other German, who had been in Berlin as late as February 1945. They stated that: the Preussische Geologische Landesanstalt and the Museum für Naturkunde are quite destroyed; the library and archives of the former were safely evacuated, but only a few types were saved from the Museum; the splendid skeleton of *Brachiosaurus* is lost; at that time both Prof. O. H. Schindewolf and Prof. H. Stille were well and active. This information seems authentic.

Bonn. The Geographisches Institut is a total loss, but its contents had been mostly evacuated across the Rhine. The Geologisch-Paläontologisches Institut is damaged somewhat by blast, but all important collections, such as that of Goldfuss, were safely evacuated. Prof. H. Cloos is still director.

Cologne. The Geographisches Institut is badly damaged, and the contents were not evacuated.

Darmstadt. The Geologisches Institut and Hessische Geologische Landesanstalt were totally wrecked.

Erlangen. Undamaged. Nothing evacuated from the Geologisches Institut. Most of the staff, with

the exception of Prof. L. Krumbeck and another, in the German army.

Frankfurt A/M. The Geologisches Institut of the Goethe University is wholly demolished, and the Senckenberg Museum is reduced almost to a hollow shell. The material was mostly evacuated, and, in the case of the Senckenberg, all research collections and stocks of publications and library are safe. Dr. R. Richter, the director, was in Bucharest when that city capitulated, and is now interned by the Russians. Two years ago he published an extensive paper on the rules of zoological nomenclature and nomenclatural problems, "Einführung in die Zoologische Nomenklatur durch Erläuterung der Internationalen Regeln", *Senckenberg. Naturf. Gesellsch.*, 1943 [a copy is now in the British Museum (Natural History) Zool. Dept. Library]. The acting director is Dr. H. T. Reuling. The only actual losses at the Senckenberg Museum, besides the building, were a number of large plaster casts (including the large one of *Diplodocus carnegiei*) and a large ornithological collection. The Senckenberg authorities have carefully saved their publications ordinarily destined for the countries of the Allied Nations, and are hoping to be able to distribute them.

Heidelberg. Undamaged, but most of the collections of the Geologisch-Paläontologisches Institut were evacuated, including large quantities of material from the Mauer deposits. For the last few years there have been three regular staff members, of whom only one, Dr. Florian Heller, was there at the time of my visits. Prof. J. Wilser is head; additional teaching aid was given by Dr. Salomon and Dr. E. Jaworski.

Innsbruck. The University is undamaged. The Geographisches Institut, headed by Prof. H. Kinzl, is in working condition, although most of the non-current library was evacuated. The collections and library were largely evacuated from the Geologisch-Paläontologisches Institut in the Alte Universität, and are now being moved in again. The Mineralogisches und Petrographisches Institut, still presided over by Prof. B. Sander, is carrying on.

Jena. The Mineralogische Anstalt is totally demolished and apparently was not wholly evacuated before the main bombing three weeks before the fall of the city. The Geographische Anstalt, mostly evacuated, was somewhat damaged by blast. The building temporarily houses the Geologisches Institut of the University of Breslau. No information about staff.

Munich. The main University building is very badly damaged. The Geographisches Institut is relatively undamaged, but rooms have been taken over by the Universitäts-Kanzlei. The Technische Hochschule is not badly damaged; Dr. Wilhelm Credner has been very active during the War, like most German geographers.

The Bayerische Akademie building is a total wreck, and of the vast geological, palaeontological and mineralogical collections, only about 250 cases, a very small part, were saved. All the fossil vertebrate collections were destroyed, as well as the Zittel Collection. The building of the Geographische Gesellschaft was wholly destroyed and the entire library lost.

Würzburg. The Geographisches Institut is completely demolished, but most of the equipment had apparently been moved to the country. The Mineralogisch-Geologisches Institut was slightly damaged by blast, nothing evacuated; and, being one of the few habitable buildings in the city, is now used for billeting. No staff members seen.