

# SCIENCE SECTION OPENING AT FAIR

## First Displays in New Hall Include Children's Area

By WALTER SULLIVAN

The first unit of what its sponsors hope will become one of the world's great science museums opens today at the World's Fair.

At the same time, it became known that Mayor Wagner had undertaken the naming of a board of trustees for a permanent museum of science and technology in this city. The reported action brings to an end a long period of stagnation in which the prospects for such an institution have been uncertain.

At issue have been both the sponsorship of the museum and its location, problems that will presumably be resolved by the new trustees.

The displays to open today are in the high-vaulted basement of the fair's Hall of Science, whose upper works are still under construction. Unlike most fair buildings, this one is to be permanent.

### Special Children's Section

A highlight of the new displays is the atomic equivalent of a children's zoo. It has been set up by the Atomic Energy Commission, but there is no talk of bombs and fallout. The youngsters dabble in pure science, twisting knobs to construct various atoms, crawling over a world map to press buttons that disclose uranium deposits.

"Plenty," says the sign that lights up to tell of uranium in the Soviet Union. "Yes" says another, somewhat ambiguously, in the heart of China.

The children can operate mechanical hands and play with a chain reaction simulator that is strikingly like a pinball machine. Their footsore parents can sit in a neighboring room and watch on closed-circuit television, since, to discourage adults, the entrance to the exhibit, "Atomsville U.S.A.," is only five feet high.

Among the hits at yesterday's preview and opening ceremony was the display of Abbott Laboratories, a drug company. One climbs into a darkened, egg-shaped chamber in the center of the hall and, peering down into a well, can see mechanical displays and moving pictures showing how life's vital chemicals are built up from atoms.

### A View of Brain

The Upjohn Company, another drug maker, shows the complex workings of the human brain. A display of the American Chemical Society deals with the chemistry of the sea and oceanographic research. Among other exhibitors are the American Cancer Society, a variety of chemical manufacturers, the Hearing Aid Industry Conference and the Office of Civilian Defense.

Opponents of the proposal to use the fair building as the

core of a science museum have been fearful that the displays would be industry-oriented and unrelated one to another, in the manner typical of a fair. Several foundation executives in a position to aid such a venture were also in favor of having the museum more centrally located.

In December, 1962, a group was chartered by the New York State Board of Regents to organize a science museum in the city. However, before the group could make substantial progress, Robert Moses, president of the New York World's Fair Corporation, supported the development of such an institution at Flushing Meadow after the fair closes.

### Board Being Named

Mr. Moses, in effect, ignored the state-appointed trustees. Some of the latter, in an effort to break the deadlock, proposed to Mayor Wagner a list of suitable members from which he could choose a new board of trustees. Such a board is now being named, according to City Hall.

At yesterday's ceremony Mr. Moses said that he would work with this new board "to show the world that no other city, here or abroad, can present the astonishing and rapidly multiplying evidences of science more ingeniously, more understandably and with greater authority."

Among the other speakers was Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. He noted that much progress had been made in introducing the younger generation to the world of the atom, and he expressed the hope that the adult portion of the A.E.C. display would help educate in the same way.