

AN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES FOR ILLINOIS

DR. A. R. CROOK, curator of the Museum of Natural History of the State of Illinois, has addressed the following letter to men of science in the state:

"There is a widespread belief that our state should proceed to establish an Academy of Sciences. Ours is one of the few states in the middle west which is without such an institution.

"I. Such an academy will furnish an efficient medium for reaching all the various scientific groups of the state when scientific matters of public interest and common welfare are to be presented.

"II. At its meetings men of science throughout the state may interchange ideas and make the personal acquaintance of men working perhaps in other lines or of men known hitherto only by their writings.

"III. Men of greater achievement and success will inevitably stimulate and encourage beginners and men of less attainments.

"IV. The important contributions to knowledge made by the scientific men of Illinois will be disseminated so that all of us may learn of the important researches, inventions, and applications which are being made by our fellow citizens.

"More than one hundred men in different universities, colleges, normal and high schools, and museums have expressed their interest.

"The Academy should comprise every worker in science in the state, its roll being an almost complete scientific directory for Illinois.

"You are invited to be present at a meeting which will be held for the organization of such an institution at Springfield, on Saturday the seventh of December, 1907.

"The meeting will be held in the Senate Chamber of the Capitol at 10 o'clock in the morning."

SECTION G, BOTANY, OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

THE coming meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will take place at the University of Chicago from

December 30, 1907, to January 4, 1908. The sessions of Section G will be held in the Hull Botanical Laboratory.

It is important for the satisfactory prosecution of the business of the secretary that the titles of papers, accompanied by brief abstracts of not more than 200 words, be in his hands a few days before the initial date of the convocation. Inasmuch as the office of the secretary is at too great a distance for quick mail service, members are particularly requested to forward titles and abstracts to the secretary in care of Dr. Henry C. Cowles, Hull Botanical Laboratory, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill., in whose hands they should be not later than December 20.

F. E. LLOYD,
Secretary, Section G

MAZAPIL, ZAC., MEX.,

November 1, 1907

THE CENTENARY OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

ONE hundred years ago, a handful of men in England, convinced that speculation is not true science, organized the Geological Society of London. With the foundation of that society the era of speculation came to an end, that of investigation began and geology, as we now know it, was born. Throughout one hundred years, the society has adhered consistently to the original policy, discouraging mere speculation but encouraging comparative geology. In its voluminous publications one finds results of study in all parts of the world and its members have proved themselves in many cases veritable helpers to students in newly settled countries. The list of presidents tells of the society's influence, for the names of most of them, from Greenough to Geikie, are as household words among geologists of all lands.

The centenary of the society was celebrated in London on September 26, 27 and 28 of this year. More than one hundred delegates representing an equal number of societies came from other countries with greetings to the parent geological society, while representatives from nearly every important scientific association in Great Britain and Ireland were

present. No doubt the number of foreign delegates would have been much greater had the date been somewhat earlier; but as it was, men came from all parts of the world, Japan, India, Australia, Africa and both Americas, while, of European nations, all except Spain, Turkey and Roumania, appear on the roll. This widespread interest proves the general appreciation of indebtedness to the old society.

In accordance with custom, the celebration was preceded by several excursions, which, considering the fact that field-work is no novelty to most geologists, were well attended and those sharing in them found profit as well as pleasure. The Highlands of Scotland attracted the petrographers; the Lake Region of England had much for geographers and South Wales was a magnet for those interested in applied geology.

The formal exercises began on Thursday, September 26. The president's reception of delegates and guests took place in the House of The Institution of Civil Engineers at 11 o'clock. The number to be received was so great that, in order to bring the session within reasonable limits, only one delegate from each country was asked to speak, the other delegates handing in their formal messages at the close of his address. Dr. Arnold Hague was chosen to present greetings in behalf of delegates from the United States and his graceful address proved that the choice was wise. In the afternoon, at the same place, the president of the society, Sir Archibald Geikie, delivered the presidential address, taking as his topic, the state of geology at the time of the foundation of the society. The speaker traced the development of geological thought, discussing the varying influences affecting it. There were many matters requiring delicate treatment before such an audience, but they were dealt with frankly, and at the close all recognized that the judicial attitude had been maintained throughout and that the address is an important contribution to the history of our science.

In the evening, the official dinner was given at the Hotel Metropole and every corner of that (the largest banquet hall in London) was filled. The dinner closed with the usual course

of addresses, representatives of France, Germany, Switzerland and the United States being called upon to respond to toasts. One must not fail to note that speakers at both the reception and the dinner confined themselves with nearly mathematical accuracy to the time allotted—a condition almost without parallel on similar occasions, which led some to suggest that Sir Archibald Geikie had exerted hypnotic influence upon the orators. If that were the case, the long-suffering American community would be glad to import him to this country.

The twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth were devoted largely to making the visitors content with themselves and their hosts. The treasures in archeology, geology and related sciences, accumulated in the several museums of London, were opened up to groups of interested observers, and, under the guidance of the Canon of St. Paul's, that cathedral was examined historically as well as geologically—the latter relation possessing much economic interest. It may be remarked in passing that anxiety respecting the security of that structure seems to be superfluous. The cracks in the walls are not due to recent excavations for subways and deep cellars, but they are as old as the building itself, most of them having developed during construction, as foreseen by Sir Christopher Wren, who, as they appeared, made proper arrangement for redistribution of burden so as to prevent further trouble.

In the early evening of the twenty-seventh, a dinner to the delegates and invited guests was given by the Geological Club of London, which was a good example of "how to do it." Each member of the club was directed to annex some of the guests and to seat them with him at the table; the result being that groups of four or five with similar lines of study or with affinities of other sorts were brought together, making this a more than enjoyable meeting for many who were present. The formal exercises were brought to a close on that evening by a brilliant *conversazione* at the South Kensington museum, where many old acquaintanceships were renewed and some new ones converted into friendships.

On Monday, the thirtieth, many of the dele-

gates went to Oxford and many others to Cambridge. At each place the hospitality was profuse and honorary degrees were conferred on several geologists from the continent.

Unlike geological congresses, this meeting was not one for the reading of formal papers. As the president said to one of the visitors, the object was to have geologists see and know each other. In this respect the meeting was eminently successful. The commodious rooms of the Society in Burlington House, open for two weeks prior to the celebration, afforded every opportunity for men to become acquainted and full advantage was taken of the opportunity. The effect for good will last for a generation. It would be well if some one with genius for organization would take the method for a pattern and remodel the congresses so as to reduce reading of papers to the minimum and to increase the opportunity for personal contact, punishing by fine those who may neglect to utilize the opportunity.

Where all labored to make the celebration a success, it would be invidious to select any for particular mention; one may only congratulate the committee of arrangements upon the smoothness with which everything moved. Geological John Bull's idea of hospitality embraces much of genial common sense. It may be, as reported, that the Briton is slow in starting, but certainly, once started, his momentum is tremendous, carrying both willing and unwilling alike on a high wave of good cheer.

JOHN J. STEVENSON

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

PROFESSOR MAJOR RONALD ROSS, who left Liverpool on October 22 for Mauritius for the purpose of research in tropical medicine, and Mr. W. M. Haffkine were entertained at dinner on October 21 by the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. Sir Alfred Jones presided, and presented Mr. Haffkine with the Mary Kingsley medal of the school.

THE council of the Royal Meteorological Society, at their meeting on October 16, awarded the Symons gold medal for 1908 to M. L. Teisserenc de Bort, of Paris, in recognition of the services which he has rendered

to the science of meteorology. The medal was established in memory of the late George James Symons, the founder of the British Rainfall Organization, and is awarded biennially.

THE College of Physicians of Philadelphia announces that the Alvarenga prize for 1907 has been awarded to Dr. William Louis Chapman, Providence, R. I., for his essay, entitled "Postoperative phlebitis, thrombosis and embolism." The next award of the prize, amounting to about \$180, will be made on July 14, 1908. Particulars may be obtained from Dr. Thomas R. Neilson, secretary of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.

THE honorary degree of Ph.D. has been conferred on Professor Ernest Rutherford, of Manchester University, by the University of Giessen.

THE Yale corporation has conferred the honorary degree of master of arts on Professor E. W. Brown and on Professor Ross G. Harrison, who have this year become members of the faculty of the university.

SIR PATRICK MANSON, medical adviser of the British Colonial Office, has been chosen president of the International Society of Tropical Medicine, organized during the recent International Congress of Hygiene.

PROFESSOR BAELEZ, of Stuttgart, and Professor Noecht, of Hamburg, have been elected presidents of the recently established German Society of Tropical Medicine.

DR. FRANK H. LOUD, professor of astronomy and mathematics in Colorado College since 1877, has retired with an allowance from the Carnegie Foundation.

By the trustees of Clemson College the office of state entomologist has been separated from the chair of zoology and entomology of the college and located at Columbia, S. C. On September 11, 1907, Professor Chas. E. Chambliss resigned his position of associate professor of zoology and entomology to accept the appointment of state entomologist.

DR. HEINRICH HASSELBRING, assistant in botany in the University of Chicago, has been appointed assistant botanist at the Cuban