

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF  
PHYSIOLOGY.

AN International Congress of Physiologists is held triennially, with the object of contributing to the advancement of physiology by affording to physiologists of various nationalities an opportunity of personally bringing forward experiments and of exchanging and discussing views one with another and further of making mutual personal acquaintance.

At the conclusion of the Congress at Bern, in 1895, it was unanimously resolved that the Fourth International Congress of Physiologists should be held at Cambridge, England, in the present year. The usual circular letter of the Executive International Committee, concerning the arrangements for and regulations of the Conference, will be issued shortly after Easter. Meanwhile, the National Organizing Committee for the Congress send the following information :

The Congress will open on Tuesday, August 23d, and will hold sittings on that and the three immediately following days. The place of meeting will be the Physiological Laboratory of the University. The sessions will be devoted especially to experimental forms of demonstration. At the last Congress Professor Foster was elected President for the forthcoming Congress. Professor Foster has kindly expressed his readiness to afford to members of the Congress all possible facilities for experimental demonstration, as well as for the exhibition of preparations and of scientific apparatus. Three languages are recognized as official at the Congress, namely, English, French, German. Each member of the Congress is required to contribute the sum of ten shillings towards defraying the expenses of the meetings. In receipt for that subscription a card of membership of the Congress will be issued by the Local Secretary, Dr. L. E. Shore, Physiological Laboratory, Cambridge.

Those who intend to be present and those who wish to present papers should address the Local Secretary, Dr. L. E. Shore, Physiological Laboratory, Cambridge, before July 4th.

In connection with the Congress, an Exhibition of Physiological Apparatus will be held.

Exhibits may be contributed by members of the Congress, by directors of physiological laboratories, and by makers recommended by any member or director. The exhibition of apparatus will open on Monday, August 22d, and remain open for the five following days.

The national organizing committee consists of M. Foster, *President*; C. S. Sherrington, *Hon. Secretary*; F. J. Allen, W. M. Bayliss, T. G. Brodie, J. S. Edkins, W. H. Gaskell, F. Gotch, W. D. Halliburton, J. B. Haycraft, Leonard Hill, J. N. Langley, J. G. M'Kendrick, C. MacMunn, O. Noel Paton, M. S. Pembrey, J. M. Purser, P. H. Pye-Smith, Waymouth Reid, W. Rutherford, J. B. Sanderson, E. A. Schäfer, L. E. Shore, W. Stirling, W. H. Thompson, A. D. Waller.

## THE ALLEGHENY OBSERVATORY.

IN order to retain the services of Professor James E. Keeler, who had been offered an important position in the Yerkes Observatory, steps have been taken at Pittsburg and Allegheny to build for him a new observatory with a thirty-inch telescope. It is to be hoped that the call of Professor Keeler to Lick Observatory, announced elsewhere in this issue of SCIENCE, will not interfere with the construction of a new observatory for the Western University of Pennsylvania. The present observatory is so surrounded by buildings and its equipment is so meager that it must be removed and enlarged if it is to maintain the rank given to it by Professor Langley and Professor Keeler. Allegheny City has given the University a site in an elevated position surrounded by parks and comparatively free from smoke, and the sum of about \$100,000 has been subscribed towards the new building and its equipment. This sum, it is expected, will very soon be greatly increased. At the close of a course of lectures given at the Carnegie Library, Professor Keeler, as reported in the *Pittsburg Commercial Gazette*, referred to the need of a new observatory as follows :

"I desire to say a few words about a subject that should interest all very greatly. The object of this society is the diffusion of knowledge. It is well that we should found colleges and

societies and libraries to further this great purpose. But before the truth can be spread among the people it must be found; and a few men—a small minority of the world's population, but the leaders of the world's intellectual progress—are constantly engaged in pushing outward the boundaries of knowledge into the unknown. To one who knows that this minority exists and understands what it is, membership in it is one of the most enviable things that a man or an institution can win.

"Through the researches which Professor Langley carried on for years at the Allegheny observatory, we once had a high standing among the keen minds who are probing the secret places of nature, but the commercial activities of a great city have encroached upon the scene of scientific labor and the old observatory is shrouded in a pall of smoke. Its usefulness is at an end.

"We wish to build a new observatory. The city of Allegheny has reserved for us the excellent site in Riverview Park, two miles to windward of the present building, and practically free from smoke. Three years ago I drew a plan for an observatory to be placed upon this site. It provides for a thirty-inch telescope, an instrument which is large enough for the most advanced work, and yet not too large for convenience in operation, and all the accessory apparatus which the use of such a telescope requires. It also provides for a public department, with a thirteen-inch telescope, to which visitors will be freely admitted every clear night.

"The plan has been shown to a number of the most eminent astronomers in this country, and has met with their approval. The estimated cost is \$175,000. In these two cities we have everything necessary to insure the successful carrying out of our purpose. Within a stone's throw of the observatory we have the best optician and instrument maker in the world. We have abundant wealth. All we need now is the will, and as some of our most eminent citizens are interesting themselves most unselfishly in the matter, I hope we shall not long want that. I ask all who wish to see Pittsburg an intellectual as well as a commercial center to lend us a helping hand."

#### THE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY OF THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES.

THE next annual session of the Biological Laboratory will be held at Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, during the months of July and August, 1898. The regular class work will begin on Wednesday, July 6th, and continue for six weeks. The laboratory will be open for work from July 5th until August 27th. Special students may make arrangements for using the laboratory from the middle of September, or later, if desirous of doing so. Application for admission to any course, except Zoology 1 and Botany 2, should be made on or before June 15th.

The laboratory has now possession of several buildings: 1. A large laboratory, accommodating about sixty students and fitted with aquaria, running fresh and salt water, private rooms, library, etc. 2. A lecture hall, used both for class lectures and for public lectures. It is furnished with an oxyhydrogen lantern. In the basement of this building is a dark room for photographing purposes, equipped with cameras and arrangements for ordinary photography, microscopic photography, lantern-slide making, etc. 3. A dining hall used for boarding the party. 4. Two dormitories for students, one of them being assigned to men, and the other to women. The rooms in these dormitories are newly furnished and are rented to students for a small sum. In addition, the laboratory is furnished with a naphtha launch, small boats, collecting apparatus, bacteriological apparatus, books, and all small apparatus needed for carrying on laboratory work. A limited number of microscopes are furnished the students, although each person is urged to bring a dissecting and a compound microscope if possible. The laboratory has also the advantages of the aquaria and appliances of the neighboring hatchery of the New York Fish Commission. The laboratory fee, including any one course of instruction, the general lectures and the use of laboratory privileges, will be \$20. For each additional course of instruction there is an additional fee of \$5. Except in the courses in Zoology 1 and Botany 2, students not provided with compound microscopes of their own will be charged \$5 for the use of a microscope. Board will be

furnished for \$4.50 per week. Rooms in the dormitories cost \$1.50 or \$3.00 per week, according to size.

In addition to the regular courses of instruction popular lectures will be given, open to the members of the laboratory and the friends of the school. Professor Charles L. Bristol, of New York University; Smith Ely Jelliffe, M. D., of New York; Dr. George H. Parker, of Harvard University; Mr. Gerrit S. Miller, of the National Museum, Washington; Professor Richard E. Dodge, of the Teachers' College, New York, and Mr. D. S. Judge, of the United States Department of Agriculture, will be among the lecturers.

Full courses are offered by the following board of instruction: Charles B. Davenport, Ph.D., Harvard University, General Director of the Laboratory; Professor H. T. Fernald, Ph.D., State College, Pa., instructor in zoology; D. S. Johnson, Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University, instructor in botany; C. P. Sigerfoos, Ph.D., University of Minnesota, assistant in embryology; Professor W. H. C. Pynchon, Trinity College, instructor in photography; Nelson F. Davis, Ph.D., Bucknell University, instructor in bacteriology; Henry R. Linville, Ph.D., New York City High School, assistant in zoology; Mrs. Gertrude Crotty Davenport, past instructor in Kansas University, instructor in microscopical methods.

#### GENERAL.

PROFESSOR JAMES E. KEELER, director of Allegheny Observatory, has been elected by the regents of the University of California director of Lick Observatory, to succeed Professor Edward S. Holden, who recently resigned, after twenty-five years' service.

THE Imperial Academy of Sciences of St. Petersburg has awarded its Shubert prize, for the greatest work in theoretical astronomy, to Professor Simon Newcomb.

THE laboratory of the United States Fish Commission Station at Wood's Holl, under the direction of Professor H. C. Bumpus, has been opened and a number of investigators are already at work. Men of science who wish to carry out research in the laboratory or suggest

lines of investigation should communicate with the director.

DR. CHARLES WARDELL STILES, of the United States Department of Agriculture, has been appointed attaché to the United States Embassy in Berlin. Dr. Stiles's duty will be to keep the Agricultural Department informed on important discoveries and other matters of interest to agricultural science, to defend American meats, fruits and other exports against unjust discrimination, and to advise the Secretary of Agriculture from time to time concerning the purity of the food products that are shipped from Germany to the United States. It is said that the appointment of Dr. Stiles will probably be followed by other similar appointments, and it consequently represents an important advance in the application of scientific principles to diplomatic and commercial affairs.

WE regret to record the death, at the age of eighty-one years, of Sir Richard Quain, the eminent British physician and writer on medical subjects.

MR. G. K. GILBERT, of the United States Geological Survey, gave a lecture on the history of the Niagara river at Vassar College on March 10th.

THE London Physical Society has elected as honorary members Professor Riccardo Felici, of Pisa, and Professor Emilio Villari, of Naples.

AT its meeting of March 9th the American Academy of Arts and Sciences elected Albert Heim, of Zurich; Friedrich von Recklinghausen, of Strassburg, and Ferdinand Brunetière, of Paris, as foreign honorary members.

MR. G. J. SYMONS, F.R.S., has been presented by the Prince of Wales with the Albert medal of the Society of Arts for his services to meteorology.

A COMPLIMENTARY dinner was given in London on February 26th by his old students and friends to Professor M'Kenny Hughes, to celebrate the completion of his 25 years' tenure of the Woodwardian professorship of geology at Cambridge. Between 60 and 70 guests, many of them ladies, were present, including, in addition to old students, Sir Archibald Geikie, of the Geological Survey, who presided, and

Mr. W. Whittaker, President of the Geological Society. An illuminated address was presented in the name of the old students by Dr. R. D. Roberts and Mr. Strahan. Professor Hughes has also been presented with a loving-cup by his former students.

A BUST of the geologist Freiherr H. von Foulton, who was killed in the Solomon Islands in 1896, has been placed in the Geological Institute of the University of Vienna.

MAYOR VAN WYCK, of New York, has appointed Mr. Michael C. Murphy, a Tammany politician, to the presidency of the health board of the city.

THE Ninth International Congress of Hygiene and Demography will, as we have already announced, be opened at Madrid on April 10th and will be continued for one week. The exhibition of hygiene will, however, be open for three months. Scientific papers must be sent before March 15th. They may be written in Latin, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, French, English or German, but must be accompanied with a short summary written either in Spanish or in French. The Spanish railways and steamship companies have made a reduction of 50 per cent. to all attending the Congress.

THE American Neurological Association will hold its twenty-fourth annual meeting on May 26, 27 and 28, 1898, in New York, at the Academy of Medicine.

THE Senate Committee on Commerce has authorized Senator Quay to report as a separate bill the amendment to the Sundry Civil Bill proposed by Senator Penrose in aid of the industrial exposition proposed to be held in Philadelphia in 1899. The bill appropriates \$200,000 for a government exhibit and provides for the admission of foreign articles free of customs duties.

APPROPRIATIONS have been proposed in the Massachusetts Legislature giving \$4,000 for a forest survey of the State and \$2,000 for a survey of the lakes and ponds.

It is reported that the Duke of the Abruzzi has had a conference with Captain Sverdrup on the subject of his projected expedition to the

Arctic regions. The Duke will leave next summer for Spitzbergen in order to explore the country, but the expedition will not start until 1899, and its first objective will be Franz Josef Land. Should the conditions of the ice be favorable, depôts will be established, and an attempt will be made to reach the Pole by means of sledges and dogs. In the event of this, however, proving impracticable, the expedition will confine itself to an exploration of Franz Josef Land. On the advice of Captain Sverdrup, the Duke will ask the Danish government for a supply of dogs from Greenland, as these are considered to be the best.

THE *Evening Post* reports that the great painter, Mr. G. F. Watts, is an associate of the Society for the Protection of Birds, and feels strongly about the fashion of using the plumage of birds for millinery purposes. He is now painting a picture representing an angel with bowed head and despairing figure bending over a marble tomb covered with birds' wings, while a spirit of evil grins below.

THE publishing house of G. T. H. Fischer, Cassel, announces several new additions to its series of zoological charts prepared under the supervision of the late Professor Rudolph Leuckart and Dr. Carl Chun.

Subscriptions to the fund being collected as a memorial to the late Edmund Drechsel should be sent to Professor Kronecker, Bern, not Berlin, as given in a recent issue of this JOURNAL.

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#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE will of the late Amos R. Eno contains several public bequests, including \$50,000 to Amherst College.

MISS HELEN GOULD, New York, has given \$20,000 to Rutgers College.

MR. ANDREW CARNEGIE has given \$50,000 for a technical school at Dumferline, Scotland.

DR. GEORGE S. FULLERTON has resigned the Vice-Provostship of the University of Pennsylvania. He will retain the professorship of philosophy, but will take a year's leave of