

complete botanical survey of the island, since the fact is fully appreciated that the natural plant covering of a region is closely correlated with its agricultural possibilities. As one of the results of this survey it is planned to publish an illustrated flora of Cuba. Work towards that end has already been begun, and it is proposed to prosecute it as rapidly as circumstances will permit. In this connection it will be necessary for the botanist to visit the larger American and European herbaria where types of Cuban plants are likely to be found.

There are, however, numerous smaller collections, both public and private, which contain interesting Cuban material. Where it is possible to secure the loan of such material it will be thankfully received and carefully returned. A large quantity of duplicate material is being collected with which to repay such courtesies and to offer in exchange for other tropical American plants. It will not, however, be the policy of this institution to offer sets of such material for sale.

An available tropical laboratory has long been the dream of American botanists. Within the last few months this dream has been realized by the arrangement between the Jamaican government and the New York Botanical Garden for the use of the *Cinchona* plantations. It is now possible to offer the use of a second tropical laboratory. We feel that the occasional residence among us of active botanists from other institutions, bringing, as they will, fresh suggestions and inspiration, would be of the greatest benefit to us. We, therefore, freely offer the use of our facilities to any properly accredited botanist who cares to make use of them for any line of botanical investigation, stipulating only that arrangements be made long enough in advance to avoid possible conflicts. Persons desiring to do much microscopic work should bring their own instruments with them. Santiago de las Vegas is situated twelve miles south of Havana in a rolling, open country. There are four trains a day to and from Havana over the Western Railroad. The elevation is only about one hundred and fifty feet. The conditions are, therefore, absolutely different from those in *Cinchona* with its rugged mountains

and five thousand feet of elevation, and a residence at one of them will only sharpen the appetite for experiences at the other.

F. S. EARLE,

Director Cuban Experiment Station.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ARTS
AND SCIENCE.

WE hope to print later an account of¹ the work of the International Congress of Arts and Science, held last week at St. Louis, and we have already printed the program and a description of the aims of the congress by Professor Münsterberg, who was chiefly responsible for its plan. In the last issue will be found the address of the president and in this issue the address before the department of physical science; others of the important addresses will appear subsequently. These articles and addresses give an adequate impression of the work of the congress, and only a few words are needed at this time.

It was the unanimous opinion of nearly all those present that the congress was successful and successful beyond the anticipations that had been formed. There has perhaps never been assembled together a group of scholars so notable, and the addresses were real and in some cases important contributions to science. With the possible exception of the 'Encyclopædia Britannica,' the addresses when published together will give the best review that has ever appeared of contemporary science and scholarship. There were about a hundred foreign delegates, each a leader in his science. A selection of names must be almost at random, but it may be questioned whether there were ever before gathered together in one room men of science and scholars so eminent as Poincaré, Darboux, Picard, Boltzmann, Ostwald, van't Hoff, Ramsay, Moissan, Backlund, Arrhenius, Murray, Penck, Zirkel, de Vries, Giard, Delage, Hertwig, Waldeyer, Seler, Höff-

ding, Erdmann, Ward, Liebreich, Kitasato, Semon, Escherlich, Rein, Lamprecht, Conrad, Furwängler, Harnack, Brunialti and Bryce. The American speakers and chairman formed a group of leaders in scientific research, of whom any country might be proud.

A congress of arts and science gives distinction to a universal exposition, but no one supposes that it is the most suitable place for such a meeting. There are many material difficulties which were by no means overcome at St. Louis. The audiences averaged about a hundred—though in one case at least there were only five hearers present—but they were not composed chiefly of scientific men. Criticism should, however, be overshadowed by appreciation. Never before has an attempt been made to give such a complete and unified summary of the progress of science. President Francis, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Schiff and other officers of the exposition deserve thanks and honor for their interest in the congress; President Butler and other members of the administrative board, for the general arrangements, and Professors Newcomb, the president, Münsterberg and Small, the vice-presidents, for the work of organization.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE honorary vice-presidents of the International Congress of Arts and Science were the Hon. James Bryce, Great Britain; M. Gaston Darboux, France; Professor Wilhelm Waldeyer, Germany; Dr. Oskar Backlund, Russia; Professor Theodore Escherich, Austria; Signor Attilio Brunialti, Italy. The executive secretary of the congress was Dr. L. O. Howard, permanent secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

CAPTAIN SCOTT and the officers and men of the *Discovery* were welcomed at the East India dock by luncheon on their arrival on September 16, the invitations being sent by the presidents of the Royal and the Royal

Geographical Societies. In the evening Captain Scott and the officers were entertained at a dinner given by the Royal Geographical Society. Addresses were made by Sir Clements Markham, president of the Royal Geographical Society, Captain Scott and others.

THE Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland has asked Professor William Osler to sit for a portrait to be placed in the hall of the faculty in Baltimore. It is stated that Professor Osler will not sever his connection with the Johns Hopkins University until after the end of the present session.

DR. BENNO ERDMANN, professor of philosophy at the University of Bonn, who gave one of the addresses at the St. Louis Congress, celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of his professorate on August 29.

DR. JAMES WARD, professor of moral philosophy and logic, at Cambridge University, gave the annual address before the Philosophical Union of the University of California, on August 26.

PROFESSOR CLEVELAND ABBE, of the U. S. Weather Bureau, delivered an address on 'Instruction and Research by Weather Bureau Officials' at the recent session of the United States Weather Bureau Officials at Peoria.

DR. AUG. WASSERMANN, titular professor of internal medicine and bacteriology at the University of Berlin, gave an address on 'The Theory and Practise of Immunity,' before a special meeting of the New York Pathological Society, on September 28.

DR. RONALD ROSS, of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, who is at present in the United States as delegate to the recent Congress of Arts and Science at St. Louis, will proceed to Panama as guest of the Canal Commission.

PROFESSOR F. H. HERRICK, professor of biology at Western Reserve University, has returned to the United States after a year's absence in Europe.

THE British chancellor of the exchequer has appointed the following gentlemen to serve as members of a committee to inquire into the use of duty-free alcohol for industrial pur-