

behind in the organization of professional science. As Sir William Huggins pointed out in his annual address, we are also far behind in the general diffusion of elementary scientific ideas.

The catholicity of the Royal Society is displayed by the fact mentioned by Lord Rayleigh, that all the medals which can be given to foreigners have this year been awarded to men of science in other countries. Assuming, as we must, that this has not happened through any desire to favor foreigners unduly, the pleasure derived from contemplating the impartiality of the Royal Society must be tempered by the inevitable reflection that we can hardly be keeping pace at home with what is done abroad. Peculiar interest attaches in the circumstances of the moment to the presence among us of Professor Mendeléeff, whose brief leave of absence from official duties covers, we believe, no more than the time required to receive in person the Copley Medal awarded to him by the Royal Society. Though his own distinction as a chemist and as a man besides of wide and varied practical ability is a sufficient reason for the award, he modestly and rightly treated it as being also a testimony of sympathy with his country in her present trials. Official good-will is properly expressed through the Russian ambassador, who sat at the side of the president, but the sympathy of intellectual England with intellectual Russia finds welcome expression in the honor decreed to Professor Mendeléeff. The dichotomy is sincerely regretted by the people of this country, who have no other desire with regard to Russia than that she may speedily find a way to reconcile the best thought of her educated people with the spirit of her administration and the form of her institutions.—*The London Times*.

THE MUSEUM ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA.

In response to the invitation extended through the columns of *SCIENCE* and by circular to those who might be supposed to be interested in the formation of a Museum Association, analogous to that which exists in Great Britain and Ireland, numerous replies

have been received, not only from all parts of the United States and Canada, but also from various South American countries, and the West Indian Islands. While it is not possible for some who reside at great distances from the city of New York to be present on May 15, all who have written to the undersigned have expressed their sympathy with the movement, and their desire to be recorded as participating in the organization of the association. How many delegates from the various museums of science and art will be present at the gathering in New York on May 15, it is impossible at this writing to state exactly, but that a large number of the museums of the country, both small and great, will be represented is certain. Many of those who intend to be present at the meeting have signified their intention to present papers upon different phases of the activity of museums.

It appears that the coming gathering will be one of interest, and the invitation to all those who are concerned in the work of museums to participate in it is renewed.

W. J. HOLLAND,

Director Carnegie Museum.

PITTSBURG, PA.,

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THE COLD SPRING BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY.

THE seventeenth session of the Biological Laboratory of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, located at Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, will be held, beginning July 5 and will continue for six weeks. Investigators may, however, be accommodated for a much longer period. The courses offered will include one in Field Zoology by Dr. C. B. Davenport, of the Station for Experimental Evolution, Carnegie Institution, and Mr. H. E. Walter, of Harvard University; Bird Study, by Mrs. Walter; Comparative Anatomy, by Dr. H. S. Pratt, of Haverford College; Invertebrate and General Embryology, by Professor H. E. Crampton, of Columbia University, and Professor W. J. Moenkhaus, of Indiana University; Animal Bionomics and Evolution, by Dr. Davenport; Cryptogamic Botany, by Professor D. S. Johnson,