

under the conduct of fellows of the society conversant with the geology of the several selected districts. These excursions will begin on Wednesday, September 18, and the excursionists will all be back in London by the evening of September 25. The celebration of the centenary, which will extend over three days, will begin on Thursday, September 26, at 11 o'clock, in the Hall of the Institution of Civil Engineers, when the chair will be taken by Sir Archibald Geikie, who has been elected president of the society for the second time in order that he may preside on this occasion. The foreign members and foreign correspondents, and the delegates from institutions at home and abroad, will then be received by him, and will present their addresses. In the afternoon, at 3 o'clock, in the same hall, the president will deliver an address, while in the evening a banquet will be given by the society to its colonial and foreign guests.

Friday, September 27, will be chiefly devoted to visits to museums, galleries, etc., concluding with an evening reception. On Saturday, September 28, short excursions have been projected to places of geological interest within easy reach of London. On Monday, September 30, the visitors will be divided into two sections, one of which will go to Oxford, the other to Cambridge. It is understood that the universities will confer honorary degrees on some of the more distinguished geologists from beyond the seas, and that college hospitality will be as abundant and hearty as usual, while those visitors who may still have energy enough left for field-work will be taken on geological excursions from both the university towns. This well-planned combination of scientific intercourse with social pleasure can hardly fail to have a lasting effect in forming and confirming friendships by bringing the geologists of many different countries into close personal relations with each other.

*SIR JOSEPH HOOKER'S NINETIETH  
BIRTHDAY*

SIR JOSEPH HOOKER has addressed the following letter to Sir Trevor Lawrence in reply

to the congratulations of the Royal Horticultural Society on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday:

THE CAMP, SUNNINGDALE,

July 15, 1907.

*My Dear Sir Trevor:* Your letter of the 25th June conveying the hearty congratulations of the President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal Horticultural Society on the approach of my 90th birthday has gratified me more than I can express.

It is not by many times the first instance I have experienced of the friendly and all too liberal estimate of my labors in the cause of horticulture that the society has entertained.

It has been a source of great regret that I was obliged, when resigning my post of chairman of the Scientific Committee, to abandon all hope of attending our meetings on account of having to devote my energies to the Directorship of Kew, and to the completion of labors on botanical works I have in progress.

I had also to endeavor to overtake arrears of work extending over many years, which are still far from being overtaken. As a botanist I have hereby lost much, for since the days of David Douglas, the Royal Horticultural Society has contributed more botanical science, as represented by collections, publications and experimental research, than any other establishment in Europe.

I have now to request you as their president to accept yourself, and convey to the council and to my fellow-members, my pride and gratitude for this most welcome evidence of their friendship and esteem.

With every good wish for the continued welfare and renown of the society,

Believe me, dear Sir Trevor, sincerely yours,

JOS. D. HOOKER

*SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS*

THE seventh International Zoological Congress opens its meeting under the presidency of Mr. Alexander Agassiz at Boston on August 19. An account of the general features of the program, including the visits to New York, Philadelphia and Washington, will be found in the issue of *SCIENCE* for May 17. The full program, so far as papers were announced up to that time, will be found in the issue of *SCIENCE* for August 2.

THE British Association for the Advancement of Science opened its annual meeting