

mately ten milligrams or so. A further matter which has to be considered is the preparation and distribution of extremely dilute solutions of radium salts. For many scientific purposes, such as the determination of the radioactivity of natural waters and rocks, standard solutions of radium containing a definite, known amount of radium per cubic centimeter are frequently required. The committee proposes later to have prepared under its direction standard solutions of this kind, the strengths of which are known in terms of the primary standard. It will probably be some time before these solutions are ready for distribution, and as it may be of considerable assistance to workers in radioactivity to have some working standard for their present uses, the writer will be glad to furnish to those who may now require it small quantities of the solution prepared by Eve, Rutherford and Boltwood.<sup>1</sup> The strength of this solution is accurately known in terms of the radium standard in the possession of Professor Rutherford. When the new international standard has been prepared, the Rutherford standard will be compared with this, and any results obtained by the use of the present solution can then be corrected in terms of the international standard.

It is to be hoped that the International Radium Standards Committee, in its efforts to place radioactive measurements on the same accurate basis as electrical and other measurements, will be supported financially by the governments of the countries represented. All questions with regard to the international radium standard should be addressed to Professor Stefan Meyer, the secretary of the International Committee, Institut für Radiumforschung, Waisenhausgasse 3, Vienna IX., Austria.

BERTRAM B. BOLTWOOD

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THE CONVOCATION WEEK MEETING OF  
THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE AND  
AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

THE sixty-second annual meeting of the American Association will be held in Minne-

<sup>1</sup> *Am. Jour. Sci.* (4), 22, 1, 1906.

apolis from Tuesday, December 27, to Saturday, December 31. The first general session will occur on Tuesday evening in connection with the president's address, instead of in the morning, as has been the custom. This is made desirable by the fact that registration is a day later than usual. Following the president's address, a reception will be held in the parlors of the Hotel Radisson, the headquarters for the meeting. On Wednesday evening, a public lecture will be given in Saint Paul, complimentary to the citizens of that city, and on Thursday evening a similar complimentary lecture to the people of Minneapolis. The public meetings of Tuesday and Thursday will be held in the auditorium of the First Baptist Church, 10th Street and Harmon Place, three blocks from the Hotel Radisson. A reception to visiting ladies will be tendered by the Woman's Club on Thursday afternoon.

All sections, together with the affiliated societies, will hold their meetings at the University of Minnesota. By request, the sessions of certain sections will be held at the College of Agriculture during one day of the meeting. Dinners, smokers and other social functions will be given in the Hotel Radisson or in the rooms of the Minneapolis Commercial Club, which are in the same building. The Commercial Club has arranged to furnish visitor's cards to members as they register, and the club rooms will be used as social headquarters for the meeting. Luncheons will be furnished on the university campus during the days of the meeting.

It is probable that railroad rates of one and a third fare will be granted from eastern and southern points to Chicago. In the middle west, where a two-cent fare is almost universally in effect, there is no reduction. It should be noted that the round-trip fare from points east of Chicago will be at the rate of one and a third on the three-cent basis.

Secretaries of sections and of affiliated societies who desire to make reservations for dinners or smokers or who wish to have special facilities provided for meetings should write the secretary of the local committee, Frederic

E. Clements, University of Minnesota, as early as possible.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. HENRY F. OSBORN, of Columbia University and the American Museum of Natural History, and Professor E. B. Wilson, of Columbia University, have been elected corresponding members of the Munich Academy of Sciences.

PRINCIPAL PETERSON, of McGill University, has been elected chairman of the board of trustees of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

SIR ARCHIBALD GEIKIE, president of the Royal Society, has received the doctorate of laws from the University of Liverpool.

THE Silliman lectures at Yale University, which, as already announced, will be given by Professor Svante Arrhenius, of Stockholm, are now announced for April, 1911.

WE learn from *Nature* that prior to the anniversary meeting of the Mineralogical Society in the Geological Society's rooms at Burlington House on November 15, Dr. Lazarus Fletcher, F.R.S., was presented with his portrait, painted by Mr. Gerald Festus Kelly, in recognition of the services he had rendered to the society during the past quarter of a century. The presentation was made by Professor W. J. Lewis, F.R.S., on behalf of the members and other subscribers. For three years, 1885-88, Dr. Fletcher was president, and for twenty-one years, 1888-1909, general secretary, of the society. He resigned the secretaryship upon his appointment as director of the Natural History Museum.

THE Royal Geological Society of Cornwall at its annual meeting at Penzance, awarded to Dr. George J. Hinde, F.R.S., the Bolitho gold medal.

DR. CHARLES K. MILLS, professor of neurology, and Dr. W. G. Spiller, professor of neuropathology at the University of Pennsylvania, have been elected corresponding members of the Gesellschaft der Deutschen Nervenärzten.

MR. R. N. LYNE, has been appointed director of the department of agriculture recently established in Portuguese East Africa. Mr. Lyne has been for fourteen years director of agriculture for Zanzibar.

DR. WILLIAM AUSTIN CANNON, of the Desert Laboratory, Tucson, Arizona, is spending the year abroad. In the summer he visited several of the leading botanical gardens in Europe and now (November) is making observations on the desert flora in the vicinity of Ghardaia, southern Algeria. He plans visiting the Egyptian deserts between Wady Halfa and Berber, early in 1911. His European address is 17, Marché aux Herbes, Bruges, Belgium.

PROFESSOR W. A. HENRY, formerly dean of the College of Agriculture of the University of Wisconsin, and now emeritus professor of agriculture, will sail shortly for Europe where he will investigate European agriculture and prepare a series of articles on country life in foreign countries.

AT the annual general meeting of the London Mathematical Society, held on November 11, the following were, as we learn from *Nature*, elected to be the council and officers for the session 1910-11 (the names of members not on the retiring council are printed in *italic type*): *President*, Dr. H. F. Baker, F.R.S.; *vice-presidents*, Mr. J. E. Campbell, F.R.S., Major P. A. MacMahon, F.R.S., Sir William Niven, K.C.B., F.R.S.; *treasurer*, Sir Joseph Larmor, F.R.S.; *secretaries*, Professor A. E. H. Love, F.R.S., Mr. J. H. Grace, F.R.S.; *other members of the council*, Mr. G. T. Bennett, Dr. T. J. P. A. Bromwich, F.R.S., Dr. W. Burnside, F.R.S., Mr. E. Cunningham, Mr. A. L. Dixon, Dr. L. N. G. Filon, Dr. E. W. Hobson, F.R.S., *Professor H. M. Macdonald, F.R.S.*, and Dr. A. E. Western.

THE Huxley lecture at the University of Birmingham was delivered on November 23 by Professor Percy Gardner, professor of classical archeology in the University of Oxford. The subject of the address was "Rationalism and Science in relation to Social Movements."