days we see how much is lost. These same objections of course apply, but with less force, to the scheme of Reininghaus, July 29.

Professor Chamberlin's plan would cause the month to be abandoned as a unit of time for business, and force us to use the week or day.

It is true that the same objections may be raised to the 13-month system if we use a quarter as a unit, that is, a quarter from February 15 would be May 22, two quarters, August 1 (assuming the extra month in the middle of the year). But withal this is simpler. Moreover, when we compare the amount of business done by the quarter with that done by the month and day we see which should have the greater consideration in constructing a simple calendar.

I feel sure that these objections could not have occurred to Professor Chamberlin.

SAMUEL G. BARTON
CLARKSON SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY,
November 29, 1910

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: At the request of the Swedish geologists the International Geological Congress took place this year instead of 1909. This year was also that in which the International Zoological Congress naturally fell to be held. Since, for the convenience of university workers, these congresses are usually held at the same time of year, and since they, with their excursions, now extend over a considerable period, especially in the case of the Geological Congress, it was almost inevitable that the times of the meetings should clash. This may not affect a large number of participants, but it is rather hard on paleontologists, whose interests lie in both camps, and who, even with the aid of the aeroplane, can not be in two places at once. I should not trouble you with a complaint about what appeared to be inevitable this year, were there not signs of the same difficulty recurring in perpetuity, unless a protest is at once raised. As a matter of fact, the committee of "Paleontologia Universalis," when it met at Stockholm, forwarded to the council of the coungress a request that this interference should be avoided in future. That protest seems to have been without result. If so, in 1913 the paleontologist will again find himself summoned either by duty or desire to opposite quarters of the globe.

F. A. BATHER

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Monograph of the Okapi. By Sir E. RAY LANKESTER, K.C.B., M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S., etc. Atlas (of 48 plates). London, printed by order of the Trustees of the British Museum. 1910. 4to, pp. i–viii, plates 1–48.

Few events of recent years have aroused the interest of naturalists so much as the discovery of the okapi. It was sufficiently surprising that so large and strikingly marked an animal should have remained undiscovered for so many years; that it should prove to be related to a group now extinct increased the interest in the okapi and the known facts relating to it were promptly given in papers of scientific or popular interest, and more comprehensive memoirs were planned by those fortunate enough to be in the way of securing material. Among them was the present monograph, commenced by E. Ray Lankester while he was director of the British Museum and which having been delayed by many causes is a monograph in name only. It consists of 48 plates without text and it is stated in the preface that it is doubtful if the accompanying text will be issued, the need for any having been lessened by the appearance of Fraipont's monograph in 1907, and de Rothschilds and Neuville's paper during the present year, 1910. Fraipont's memoir, by the way, was begun by Forsyth Major, whose interest seems to have flagged after having had a number of illustrations prepared. The plates in Lankester's monograph comprise dorsal, lateral and palatal views of various skulls, drawn on a liberal scale, one third to one half natural size, and these are sufficient to afford good terms of comparison with other material. There are also views of the entire animal including one of a living calf, and plates illustrating variations in the vertebræ. As the explanations of the plates are very full a