pears at the end of the day.'' The change has been led gradually up to by an orderly succession of phases, and is itself the last manifestation of life. Were we all certain of a quiet passing—were we sure that there would be ''no moaning of the bar when we go out to sea''—we could anticipate the coming of death after a ripe old age without apprehension. And if ever the time shall arrive when man will have learned to regard this change as a simple physiological process, as natural as the oncoming of sleep, the approach of the fatal shears will be as generally welcomed as it is now abhorred. Such a day is still distant; we can hardly say that its dawning is visible. Let us at least hope that, in the manner depicted by Dürer in his well-known etching, the sunshine which science irradiates may eventually put to flight the melancholy which hovers, bat-like, over the termination of our lives, and which even the anticipation of a future happier existence has not hitherto succeeded in dispersing.

E. A. Schäfer

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MATHEMATICIANS

The fifth International Congress of Mathematicians met at the University of Cambridge from August 21 to 28. The first congress was organized in 1897 at Zürich, the second in Paris in 1900, the year of the exhibition, and meetings have been held at Heidelberg in 1904 and Rome in 1908.

The preparations for the Cambridge congress have been in the hands of a committee with Sir George Darwin as chairman, Sir Joseph Larmor as treasurer and Professors E. W. Hobson, of Cambridge, and A. E. H. Love, of Oxford, as secretaries; and arrangements have been made, with the assistance of the university and colleges of Cambridge, for the entertainment of foreign mathematicians, who were expected to exceed 300. According to advance announcements there were to be four sections concerned with analysis, geometry, applied mathematics, and philosophical, historical and educational questions. Each section meets on the mornings of four days for the consideration and discussion of special topics. In the afternoons provision is made for lectures, of which there are eight. Four of them will be on subjects of pure mathematics, to be given by Professor Bôcher, of Harvard; Professor Borel, of Paris; Professor Enriques, of Bologna, and Professor Landau, of Göttingen. The remaining four lectures are to be delivered by Professor E. W. Brown, of Yale University, on researches on periodicity in the solar system; by Prince Boris Galitzin, of St. Petersburg, on apparatus for recording and investigating earthquakes; by Sir Joseph Larmor, of Cambridge, on the dynamics of radiation, and by Sir William White, on the relations of mathematics to engineering practise.

Among Americans who expected to be present are Professors Bôcher, E. W. Brown, Fine, Huntington, Kasner, Moore, Peirce, Webster.

THE EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF APPLIED CHEMISTRY

The eighth International Congress of Applied Chemistry held its inaugural meeting at Washington on September 4, presided over by the president of the United States, and begins its scientific and business meetings in New York on September 6, continuing till September 13. Dr. Edward W. Morley is the honorary president of the congress and Dr. William H. Nichols is the president. An elaborate program has been arranged for the scientific and business meetings, and for the entertainment of visitors. It began on August 31, with receptions to the Society of Chemical Industry and the Verein deutsche Chemiker, and these societies held their meetings in New York prior to the departure for Washington by special train on the afternoon of September 3. Members of the congress returned from Washington on Thursday afternoon, and the sectional meetings open at Columbia University on Friday morning and thereafter sectional meetings are held in the morning and the afternoon. In the after-