

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-

noons there are public lectures at the College of the City of New York by distinguished chemists whose names have already been given in *SCIENCE*. An extensive series of banquets, receptions, teas and excursions has been arranged, and at the close of the congress excursions have been planned to Chicago and to California.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE following Americans have expressed their intention to be present at the meeting of the British Association, which opens this week at Dundee: Professor R. E. Allardice, Stanford; Professor Frank Allen, Manitoba; Professor Burton-Opitz, Columbia; Professor Irvine Cameron, Toronto; Professor D. H. Campbell, Stanford; Professor Archibald Clark, Manitoba; Dr. G. W. Field, Boston, Mass.; Professor J. C. Fields, Toronto; Miss Alice Fletcher, Cambridge, Mass.; Dr. W. H. Hale, New York; Professor Paul Hanus, Harvard; Professor Ida Hyde, Kansas; Professor A. E. Kennelly, Harvard; Professor A. B. Macallum, Toronto; Professor J. J. R. Macleod, Western Reserve; Professor J. C. McLennan, Toronto; Professor F. P. Mall, Johns Hopkins; Professor Gustav Mann, Tulane; Dr. S. J. Meltzer, Rockefeller Institute; Professor R. A. Millikan, Chicago; Professor E. C. Moore, Yale; Professor B. O. Peirce, Harvard; Professor F. H. Pike, Columbia; Dr. J. W. Spencer, Washington; Professor Swale Vincent, Manitoba, and Professor A. G. Webster, Clark.

PROFESSOR BERNSTEIN, formerly director of the Laboratory of Physiology at Halle, celebrated on August 3 the fiftieth anniversary of his doctorate.

DR. GUSTAV FRITSCH, honorary professor at Berlin, known for his work on localization in the brain and for his other contributions to physiology, histology and anthropology, has also celebrated the same anniversary.

THE city of Paris has named the pavilion at the St. Anne Asylum in honor of Dr. Valentin Magnan, who has retired from the directorship, which he has held since 1857.

THE King and Queen of Norway on August 20 gave a dinner in honor of Captain Amundsen. He presented the king with the silk flag which he had with him at the South Pole.

MR. A. CROMPTON, a research assistant at the Pasteur Institute, Paris, has been appointed a member of the staff of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, London.

DR. GEO. R. LYMAN, assistant professor of botany in Dartmouth College, will take the work of Professor Roland Thaxter during the coming year, at Harvard University, while Professor Thaxter is absent on his sabbatical leave.

WE learn from the *Journal* of the American Medical Association that the Southern Medical Association has appointed a special commission consisting of Captain Charles F. Craig, M. C., U. S. Army, chairman; Dr. Graham E. Henson, Crescent City, Fla., secretary, and Drs. R. H. von Ezdorf, U. S. P. H. Service, Mobile; William Kraus, Memphis, Tenn.; Creighton Wellman, New Orleans; William H. Deaderick, Marianna, Ark.; W. S. Thayer, Baltimore, Seale Harris, Mobile, and C. C. Bass, New Orleans. The commission will tabulate information from the entire south on malaria and diseases simulating malaria and will decide on what means will be used for the elimination of this condition.

MR. G. L. CARVER, professor of biology at Mercer University, Macon, Georgia, will spend the coming year in research work at Columbia University. Mr. R. A. Ganz, B.A. (Michigan), will be acting professor of biology at Mercer University.

PROFESSOR HERSCHEL PARKER and Mr. Belmore Brown have returned to Tacoma after reaching a point within three hundred feet from the summit of Mt. McKinley.

PROFESSOR H. VON BUTTEL-REEFEN has returned from an expedition to the East Indies, undertaken under the auspices of the Prussian Academy of Sciences.

DR. C. E. KENNETH MEES on August 20 delivered a lecture before the Illuminating Engineering Society of England on producing