

interest as that of signals. So far as is yet known, the natural electric waves reaching wireless telegraph stations in latitudes higher than 50° appear to travel mostly from the south. Thus the greatest changes produced in strays by the eclipse will probably be experienced at stations in Scandinavia and Russia, to reach which the waves must cross the path of the umbra. At the same time changes of some kind are to be expected in other districts than these, and it is therefore desirable that statistical observations of natural electric waves be made all over the world, and especially at places within an earth quadrant of southern Russia. It is also desirable that meteorological observations, including those of atmospheric ionization and potential gradient, should be at the disposal of the committee when considering the records of strays and signals.

The committee proposes to prepare and circulate special forms for the collection of statistics of signals and strays, especially within the hemisphere likely to be affected by the eclipse; they will endeavor to make provision for the transmission of special signals at times to be indicated on the forms; and they will offer for the consideration of the authorities controlling stations near the central line a simple program of work. The discussion of the observations, and the comparison with meteorological data, will be carried out by the committee; and digests of the statistics, together with the conclusions drawn from the analysis, will be published in due course.

The committee would be greatly aided in the organization of this investigation if those possessing the necessary facilities and willing to make observations during the eclipse would communicate with the honorable secretary, Dr. W. Eccles, University College, London, W. C., at the earliest possible date.

THE NAPIER TERCENTENARY CELEBRATION

JOHN NAPIER'S "Logarithmorum Canonis Mirifici Descriptio" was published in 1614; and it is proposed to celebrate the tercentenary of this great event in the history of mathe-

matics by a congress, to be held in Edinburgh on Friday, July 24, 1914, and following days.

The celebration is being held under the auspices of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, on whose invitation a general committee has been formed, representing the Royal Society of London, the Royal Astronomical Society, the town council of Edinburgh, the faculty of actuaries, the Royal Philosophical Society of Glasgow, the universities of St. Andrews, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Edinburgh, the University College of Dundee, and many other bodies and institutions of educational importance.

Through the favor of the editor of *SCIENCE*, the president and council of the Royal Society of Edinburgh have now the honor of giving a general invitation to mathematicians and others interested in this coming celebration.

The celebration will be opened on the Friday with an inaugural address by Lord of Appeal Sir J. Fletcher Moulton, F.R.S., LL.D. (Edin.), followed by a reception given by the Right Honorable the lord provost, magistrates and council of the city of Edinburgh. On the Saturday and Monday the historical and present practise of computation and other developments closely connected with Napier's discoveries and inventions will be discussed. A memorial service will be held in St. Giles' Cathedral on the Sunday.

Among many who have expressed a warm interest in the celebration and who hope to take part in the congress, may be mentioned Professor Andoyer, Paris; Professor J. Bauschinger, Strassburg; Professor Hume Brown, Historiographer Royal for Scotland; Professor F. Cajori, Colorado, U. S. A.; Professor G. A. Gibson, Glasgow; Dr. J. W. L. Glaisher, Cambridge; Professor Lang, St. Andrews; Professor Macdonald, Aberdeen; Professor E. Pascal, Naples; Professor Karl Pearson, London; Professor Eugene Smith, New York; Professor Steggall, Dundee; Professor Whittaker, Edinburgh.

Merchiston Castle, the residence of Napier, has long been occupied by the well-known public school, which draws pupils from all parts of the British empire. The governors of

the school have kindly invited the members of the congress to visit the castle and grounds on the Saturday afternoon.

Relics of Napier, collected by Lord Napier and Ettrick and other representatives of the family, will also be on view; and it is intended to bring together for exhibition books of tables and forms of calculating machines, which may reasonably be regarded as natural developments of the great advance made by Napier.

Individuals, societies, universities, public libraries, etc., may become founder members on payment of a minimum subscription of £2; and each founder member will receive a copy of the memorial volume, which will contain addresses and papers read before the congress, and other material of historic and scientific value. It is important to secure as many founder members as possible, so that a volume may be brought out worthy of the memory of Napier.

Ordinary subscribers attending the celebration may receive copies of the memorial volume at a reduced price.

Subscriptions and donations should be sent to the honorary treasurer, Mr. Adam Tait, Royal Bank of Scotland, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh.

All who are interested in this proposed celebration are respectfully invited to communicate with the general secretary of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, 22 George Street, Edinburgh, and to announce their intention of being present.

C. G. KNOTT,
General Secretary

ROYAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

THE council met at the Cosmos Club, Washington, on Tuesday, April 21, 1914, at 5:45 P.M. In the absence of the chairman, Mr. Diller presided. Those present were: Messrs. Bowie, Cattell, Diller, Gulliver, J. A. Holmes, Howard, Humphreys, D. S. Johnson, John Johnston, Kober, Metcalf, Pickering, Shear, Trelease and Twitmeyer.

The financial report of the permanent sec-

retary was read and, on motion, was approved and ordered printed.

Mr. Cattell submitted the report of the committee on policy.

On motion, the following resolutions recommended by the committee on policy were adopted *ad seriatim*:

1. *Resolved*, that Professor Pickering be added to the committee on policy.

2. *Resolved*, that Dr. E. W. Allen, of the office of experiment stations, U. S. Department of Agriculture, be elected secretary of Section M (Agriculture) and that he be authorized, with Professor L. H. Bailey, vice-president of the section, to nominate the sectional committee for Section M and also its representative on the council.

3. *Resolved*, that the permanent secretary be instructed to inform Dr. Robert M. Ogden that no funds can be provided for the present for the associate secretary for the south beyond necessary clerical expenses.

4. *Resolved*, that the first of the Jane M. Smith life memberships be awarded to Professor Charles Henry Peck, of Albany.

5. *Resolved*, that the entrance fee be remitted to members of the Pacific Association of Scientific Societies who join the American Association during the present year.

6. *Resolved*, that the council authorize a grant of four hundred dollars to the Pacific coast committee for the expenses of its membership committee.

7. *Resolved*, that the council authorize the Pacific coast committee to adopt the constitution for the Pacific Division and that it be suggested that the second clause of the second paragraph of Article 3, beginning with the word "except," of the constitution submitted, be omitted.

8. *Resolved*, that the council give the treasurer full power to act for the association in the Colburn will case.

9. *Resolved*, that the council authorize the appointment of Messrs. Eliot, Minot and Pickering as a committee to take the necessary steps to amend the charter of the association increasing the amount of property which may be held by the association.

10. *Resolved*, that the clerical expenses of the committee of one hundred on scientific research and its subcommittees be met from the income from the permanent funds of the association.

11. *Resolved*, that the council welcomes the action of the council of the American Chemical So-