That in view of all the circumstances and conditions; in accordance with ample traditional practise and precedent established by China's ancient rulers; and in cooperation and harmony with the policy of the most advanced governments, the national government of China make new legal recognition of China's monuments and antiquities, and of all forms of national art of antiquarian and historical value as national property, and, in the manner adopted by other nations, newly take national possession of the same and bring them under national protection for preservation in China for the lasting benefit of the Chinese people and of mankind generally.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) Henry Fairfield Osborn,
President

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION IN AUSTRALIA[1]

At the end of June and in the first week of July 400 members of the British Association for the Advancement of Science will leave England to meet for the annual sessions of the Association in the state capitals of Australia. The visit is made at the invitation of the Australian Commonwealth Government, whose guests the members of the association will be, and by whose generosity so protracted a journey is made possible.

Such a meeting is memorable in many ways. It adds completeness to that system of exchange of scientific thought and scientific men between the United Kingdom and the Dominions over-seas which has been steadily growing since the beginning of the century; and it will serve to link still more closely the newer universities with the older throughout the whole of the Empire. The previous visits of the British Association to Canada and to South Africa gave fresh impetus to scientific work, and were followed by tangible results in the creation of new scientific institutions and laboratories. There is assurance beforehand that this precedent will be repeated in Australia, for one of the objects of the visit is to afford opportunities for joint discussion on cooperation in research between the southern continent and the countries of the Northern Hemisphere in astronomical, meteorological and anthropological problems.

There are advantages of a reciprocal kind to those who would not otherwise sacrifice four months of the scientist's year in a visit to Australia. Problems await attack in solar physics and in the distribution of the stars; problems in the evolution of segregated species of animals and plants; of physiological adaptation; of atmospheric electricity and earth magnetism; of the antiquity of races and of the development of social conditions—in short, problems affecting every department of science, which can only be carried to completion with the aid of data obtained in the Southern Hemisphere and the southernmost continent.

The commonwealth government, the state universities and the Australian people are making every provision that the fullest opportunity shall be given to the meeting to investigate both the work that is being done and that which has to be done in the fields of zoology, botany, physiology and engineering. It should be added as not the least remarkable of the circumstances of this meeting that this is the first time that any government has set aside so large a subsidy for the purposes of the encouragement of science.

The members of the association proceed in two parties. The advance party of 70, in which the president-elect, Professor William Bateson, F.R.S., travels, and which takes with it a number of zoologists, botanists and geologists, will go by way of the Cape to Perth, in Western Australia. This party stays a week, making excursions for field work in the sand plains, in the Darling Range, the Irwin River district, the coast or the Kalgoorlie goldfield during the larger part of it; and, at most, three evening lectures will be delivered, one of them by Professor Herdman on "Life of the Sea," and another by Professor A. S. Eddington on "The Stars and their Movements." This visit is an unofficial part of the meeting; but since among those who take part in it are Professor F. W. Dyson (the astronomer royal), Professor H. E. Armstrong, Professor Poulton, Professor Dendy and Professor W. J. Pope (presidents respectively of the

[1] From the London *Times*.

zoological and chemical sections), Professor A. D. Waller, Sir John Biles, Dr. A. C. Haddon and Mr. A. D. Hall (president of the agricultural section) it is very strongly representative of the main body.

The rest of the party, the main body, will pick up the advance party at Perth about August 7 and will sail with them for Adelaide. If it had not been for the death of Sir W. H. White, who was to have been president at Birmingham last year, Sir Oliver Lodge would have been the president for the Australian meeting; and Australia has been eager to welcome him in his presidential capacity. Consequently he has been asked to deliver an address, and has consented. At Adelaide he will speak at an evening meeting on "The Ether of Space," and this valedictory discourse will embody his conclusions as to the objective reality of this concept, and his criticisms of the new mechanics by which an attempt is being made to replace it. Dr. W. J. Sollas, of Oxford, will deliver the other evening discourse on "Ancient Races and Their Modern Representatives"—of whom he believes the extinct Tasmanians to have been the most primitive—and Sir Charles Lucas and Mr. A. D. Hall will address their sections of geography and of agriculture.

From Adelaide, after a stay of four days, the association will go on to Melbourne, which with Sydney will be the auditorium of the larger part of the addresses, papers and discussions. Following the precedent of South Africa, the presidential address of Professor Bateson will be divided into two parts. The address in Melbourne will discuss the problem of evolution in the light of Mendelian discoveries. Professor Bateson will especially attempt a consideration of the nature of variation, showing the extreme difficulty of any longer maintaining the received doctrines on these subjects. At Sydney he will proceed further to show the application of the results of Mendelian analysis to man, pleading for simpler views of life and death and for a fuller recognition of biological knowledge in regard to conduct and the ordering of social structures.

The president's address will be delivered on the evening of August 14, and on that morning and on two other days the sections of mathematics, chemistry, zoology, economics and physiology will meet. When the association is adjourned and meets again in Sydney (August 20) the second part of the presidential address will be delivered and the remaining sections of geology, engineering, anthropology, botany and education will assemble. In another week the members move on again to Brisbane, where the sections of physiology and agriculture reassemble and where an address will be delivered by Professor W. E. Brown on "Cosmical Physics." These addresses and evening lectures are a special characteristic of the meeting, and among those who deliver them will be Sir E. A. Schafer on "The Origin of Life," Sir E. Rutherford, Professor Elliot Smith, Professor N. E. Armstrong, Professor E. B. Poulton, Professor G. W. Howe, Professor H. H. Turner, Professor B. Moore and Dr. Rosenhain.

After leaving Sydney some of the members of the association will visit New Zealand, and others will go to Tasmania. After the concluding meeting at Brisbane some will return directly home, but a number, splitting into larger or smaller parties, will continue the program of excursions which are so liberally provided for in the program of the month's meeting. One party, for example, will travel across North Queensland, others will visit New Guinea, where the commonwealth government has placed a yacht at the disposal of a specific anthropological investigation; and there are many other excursions for those who have time to make them before returning home by way of New Guinea and Java.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

WITH the close of the present term at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Professor Robert H. Richards will retire from the active work of teaching which he has followed for forty-six years. He is made professor emeritus and receives the benefits of the Carnegie Foundation. Professor Richards has