

habit." By a resolute simultaneous effort at the first onset, when interest is fresh, we may avoid the necessity of spending ten times the amount of labor in wearisome and costly agitation. No earnest man should excuse himself on the plea that "the others" will push the bill through without his help. If every man took that attitude, there would be no "others."

At my request a committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. S. W. Stratton, Director of the Bureau of Standards, has been appointed by the American Association for the Advancement of Science to take charge of the bill. This committee, located at Washington, within easy reach of congress, will serve as the natural center of a nation-wide organization. All communications on the subject should hereafter be addressed to "Thermometer Committee A. A. A. S., Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C."

It is recommended that local committees, as branches of a national organization, be formed in all the states, to bring the subject to the attention of the press and to secure the adoption of resolutions by scientific and educational organizations, faculties of universities, firms, corporations, etc. Copies of such resolutions—the briefer the better—should be sent to as many individual members of congress as possible.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science, with nearly 9,000 members, might itself be deemed fairly representative of the American scientific public. Nevertheless, in order to avoid the criticism that this measure was pushed through congress without adequate consultation of those concerned, I shall be glad to send this circular and the reprint of my speech to other societies, if their secretaries will express a wish to that effect. As the type is kept standing, it will be easy to order new editions as fast as the demand for them arises. By thus submitting the question, as nearly as possible, to a popular vote of all those who are competent to express an opinion, all semblance of arbitrary action may be avoided.

Meantime it is hoped that the present circular and accompanying speech will be reprinted and discussed as widely as possible in the scientific and popular press, so that any one who cares to raise objections may have a chance to do so. Clippings containing such printed discussions will be thankfully received by the above-named committee.

For the present you can render valuable aid by

answering the questions on the enclosed question sheet and mailing it in the enclosed envelope, which requires no postage. Unless you express a wish to the contrary, it will be assumed that you permit the publication of your remarks entire or in extract.

The questions are as follows:

1. Should the use of the Fahrenheit scale be discontinued?
2. Can you suggest arguments in addition to those contained in the accompanying documents?
3. Can you suggest amendments to the bill? (Text of bill on page 3 of speech.)
4. What length of time should be allowed before the use of centigrade degrees, with or without the addition of the equivalent in Fahrenheit degrees, becomes obligatory in government publications?
5. What length of time should be allowed before the use of Fahrenheit degrees in parentheses after centigrade degrees is discontinued?
6. In case you were invited by the Committee on Coinage, Weights and Measures to state your opinion orally before them, would you be willing to come to Washington for that purpose?
7. Do you know of any organization that might be willing, on invitation by the committee, to send delegates to Washington for the same purpose?
8. Are you willing to work in behalf of this movement—by writing, lecturing, organizing state committees and other committees, securing resolutions from societies, faculties of universities, etc.?
9. Can you suggest other methods of work?
10. Can you give the names and addresses of secretaries of societies whose members ought to receive the circular and other documents?

SUMMER "ASSEMBLY IN SCIENCE" AT THE SCRIPPS INSTITUTION

THE experiment of holding a "Summer Assembly in Science" at the Scripps Institution for Biological Research at La Jolla, on the sea coast near San Diego, will be tried by the University of California this summer for the first time. The purpose is to disseminate among teachers of biology and physical geography and others interested in modern science the discoveries and new points of view which are resulting from the investigations of this research department of the university, and to

acquaint scientific men with the richly varied sea-life of the California coast.

There will be lectures, conferences and demonstrations every afternoon of the six weeks by members of the scientific staff of the institution on the following subjects (each once weekly). "The Relation of Biology to the Sciences of Man," Professor William E. Ritter, Fridays; "Heredity, Environment and Adaptation," Dr. F. V. Sumner, Thursdays; "Some of the Messages of Marine Biology to Student and Teacher," E. L. Michael, Wednesdays; "Physical Oceanography, Including Some of Its Relations to Meteorology," G. F. McEwen, Tuesdays. "Local Coastal Physical Geography" will be a course to be conducted Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, at 10 o'clock by W. C. Crandall, who as master of the *Alexander Agassiz*, the institution's sea-going scientific collecting vessel, has wide familiarity with the California coast. The rest of the mornings of every day except Saturday will be devoted to lectures, laboratory, museum and field work for small groups of students on the characteristic animal and plant life of the ocean waters along the shore of southern California, this work being conducted by W. C. Crandall and P. S. Barnhart.

The university has been encouraged in such undertakings by the success of the annual summer session at Berkeley (for next summer from June 26 to August 5), which last year enrolled 5,364 students.

Half a mile of ocean frontage, with cliffs, sand beaches and tide pools inhabited by a wide variety of sea-life is the ideal location which the Scripps Institution for Biological Research occupies, two miles north of La Jolla and fifteen miles north of the center of San Diego but within the corporate limits of the city. The "investors," as Miss Ellen B. Scripps and Mr. E. W. Scripps prefer to be known, have provided the Scripps Institution with maintenance funds and with a commodious laboratory building containing twelve private laboratories for investigators, a large aquarium room, a two-story concrete museum and library building, now in course of construction; and a concrete pier a thousand feet

in length, at which the eighty-five foot collecting vessel, the *Alexander Agassiz*, can dock, and from the end of which, far out beyond the surf zone, pure sea water is pumped in to supply the nineteen tanks in the public aquarium and also the scientific laboratories. The institution possesses a biological library of over 5,000 bound volumes and 8,000 pamphlets and the principal scientific journals in its field, and a museum is being assembled of the marine fauna of the California coast.

"Endowed research in pure science is absolutely essential to continued progress in civilization"—such is the declaration of faith which Director William E. Ritter makes in his announcement of this assembly in science at La Jolla, from June 25 to August 5. "In a democratic country like ours," he continues, "there must be provision for investigation and also definite measures to disseminate the fruits of investigation as widely as possible among the people."

Any persons interested in science who wish to attend the assembly at the Scripps Institution are requested to write as soon as possible to Professor William E. Ritter, scientific director of the institution, at La Jolla, so that proper provision may be made.

THE CLOSING OF BRITISH MUSEUMS

A PROTEST against the closing of British museums (including art galleries) was made to the prime minister on February 10 by a deputation representing the Museums Association, the National Art Collections Fund, the Royal Asiatic Society, the Hellenic Society, the Art Workers' Guild and the Imperial Arts League. Mr. Asquith said that in addition to the reading room of the British Museum, the government had decided to keep open the National Gallery and the Victoria and Albert Museum. In view of the numerous colonial visitors and wounded soldiers who resorted to the Natural History Museum, a further concession might be made by keeping open the portions of the museum which most interest ordinary visitors. Sir E. Ray Lankester writes to the *London Times*:

I am afraid that our legislators are ignorant of