

scale of 1/200,000, each sheet embracing one square degree, and including at least one point whose coordinates shall be fixed with satisfactory precision; for this the polyhedral projection will be employed. In view of the enormous extent of the territory a complete new survey will be dispensed with, any trustworthy material already existing being employed and supplemented by reconnaissances and astronomical determinations of position. It is reckoned that about 8,000 kilom. have already been surveyed on the scale of 1/100,000, and that about 1,700,000 kilom., or one fifth of the total area of Brazil, have been mapped on other scales. To resurvey the whole on the 1/100,000 scale would, it is calculated, occupy 690 years, and the small state of Rio de Janeiro alone four years. But a map free from important errors and giving a good general representation of the country could be made in twenty-one years, or less if existing material is taken into account. Thus it is hoped that a satisfactory mapping of half the whole area may be completed in time for the Centenary celebration, the other half being left for the second century of independence.

SCIENTIFIC MEETING OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

DURING the four years of the war, the scientific meetings of the British Medical Association were suspended and only the political meetings of the representatives were held. The last ordinary annual general meeting was held in July, 1914, and it had been arranged to hold the following meeting at Cambridge, under the presidency of Sir Clifford Allbutt. This meeting was abandoned, because of the strain on the profession owing to the war. The London correspondent of the *Journal* of the American Medical Association writes that it has been found impossible for Cambridge to arrange to receive the association this year, but it hopes to do so in 1920. It was therefore suggested that a special meeting might be arranged this year for the discussion of clinical and scientific subjects, but on a smaller scale than usual. At a meeting, the proposal was laid before Lieutenant General

Sir John Goodwin, the director general of the army medical service, and representatives of the medical services of the British navy and air force and of the medical services of the Dominions and of the United States. In opening the proceedings, Sir Clifford Allbutt said that the time had come to relay old tracks and make plans for reconstruction, but that it had not been considered advisable to hold a full dress meeting this year. A short scientific meeting could be held this year in London without any attempt at large organization or elaborate entertaining. Dr. J. A. MacDonald, chairman of the council, said that the main object would be to bring together workers from at home, the Dominions and the United States to garner knowledge and ideas from those who had studied war medicine and surgery. Lieutenant General Sir John Goodwin thought that such a congress was most desirable. Much scientific work of the highest value had been done during the war, and the results were now being analyzed. It would be an immense advantage that they should be examined. All possible facilities would be given to assemble research workers from the forces overseas. Colonel A. M. Whaley, United States liaison medical officer with the War Office, welcomed the idea on behalf of the American medical officers serving in Europe. Approval was also expressed by representatives of the Canadian, Australian and New Zealand medical service. All agreed that the meeting would be valuable in crystallizing the knowledge gained during the war. In view of the approaching departure of many medical officers, it was felt that the meeting should be held as soon as possible. It was provisionally agreed that the meeting should be held early in April and should last two or three days.

PROPOSED MAGNETIC AND ALLIED OBSERVATIONS DURING THE TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE OF MAY 29, 1919

SPECIAL magnetic and allied observations will be made at certain stations inside and outside the shadow belt of the total solar eclipse of May 29, 1919, by the Department of