

MEETING OF THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEES
OF THE SECTIONS OF THE BRITISH
ASSOCIATION

Nature states that a combined meeting of organizing committees of the Sections of the British Association was held at Burlington House, on February 25. The meeting was called to consider various suggestions as to number and grouping of sections, presidential addresses, and other subjects discussed in the recent correspondence in *Nature* and elsewhere, and also to facilitate the arrangement of joint programs between two or more sections for the annual assembly at Edinburgh in September next. At the general session it was agreed that the number of sections should not be reduced, but that voluntary grouping for the consideration of subjects of common interest was desirable. The council (through the general officers) was empowered to fix hours of addresses and discussions, and the view was approved that the oral delivery of presidential addresses should be optional, as well as that the addresses themselves might be used to open discussions. It was also decided that the council should invite the recorders of sections, or their nominees, to be present at meetings of council when presidents of sections are elected. Organizing committees will thus, through their representatives, be able to put forward their views as to new sectional presidents. Several joint discussions were arranged for the forthcoming Edinburgh meeting, among them being one between the Sections of Physics and Chemistry on Dr. Langmuir's theory of the atom, and another between the Sections of Economics, Education, and Psychology on vocational education and psychological tests.

THE PERSONNEL RESEARCH FEDERATION

UNDER the auspices of the National Research Council and the Engineering Foundation, in the building of the National Research Council, Washington, the organization of the Personnel Research Federation was effected on March 15. This federation includes in its membership scientific, engineering, labor, management and educational bodies. It has

been organized to bring about interchange of research information among the organizations which are engaged in personal research. It is reported to the new federation by the Bureau of Labor Statistics that there are 250 such organizations in the United States. The Personnel Research Federation will collect research information, will encourage research through individuals and organizations and will coordinate research activities.

Temporary officers were elected as follows:

Chairman: Robert M. Yerkes, representing the National Research Council.

Vice-chairman: Samuel Gompers, representing the American Federation of Labor.

Treasurer: Robert W. Bruere, representing the Bureau of Industrial Research.

Secretary: Alfred D. Flinn, representing the Engineering Foundation.

Acting Director: Beardsley Ruml, assistant to the president of Carnegie Corporation of New York.

The aims of the new organization are increased efficiency of all the personnel elements of industry—employer, manager, worker—and improved safety, health, comfort and relationships.

The immediate purposes of the Personnel Research Federation will be to learn what organizations are studying one or more problems relating to personnel and the scope of their endeavors, and to determine whether these endeavors can be harmonized, duplication minimized, neglected phases of the problems considered and advanced work undertaken.

On November 12, 1920, a preliminary conference was held in Washington under the auspices of the National Research Council and the Engineering Foundation, attended by forty persons, including representatives of national organizations of scientists, engineers, labor, capital, managers, educators, economists and sociologists. The question under discussion was the practicability of bringing about cooperation among the many bodies conducting research relating to men and women in industry and commerce, from management to unskilled labor. Such topics as the relations of persons doing different parts of the