

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

work, and the influence of working conditions upon the health, output and happiness of the workers, are examples of those which could be made subjects of research. The underlying ideas which led to the conference, were (1) the advantages of studying such questions by the scientific method of gathering facts and using them to reach conclusions instead of discussing opinions and propaganda, and (2) the need for cooperation among the organizations and individuals engaged in such studies.

GRANTS FOR RESEARCH MADE BY THE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

At the Chicago meeting of the association, the Committee on Grants distributed five thousand dollars for the year 1921 in different sciences as follows:

MATHEMATICS

One hundred and fifty dollars to Professor Solomon Lefschetz, of Kansas University, in support of his work in algebraic geometry.

PHYSICS

One hundred and fifty dollars to Professor W. F. G. Swann, of the University of Minnesota, for the investigation of atmospheric electric phenomena in the upper air.

Two hundred and fifty dollars to Professor H. M. Randall, of the University of Michigan, in support of his work on the infra-red rotational absorption spectra of gases.

Two hundred dollars to Professor Walter G. Cady, Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut, in support of his work on electrical reactions produced by piezo-electric crystals in high frequency circuits, and the internal viscosity of elastic solids.

One hundred dollars to Professor Paul F. Gaehr, of Wells College, for his study on the specific heat of tungsten at incandescent temperatures.

One hundred dollars to Professor Arthur L. Foley, of Indiana University, in continuation of a previous grant for his experiments on the speed of sound close to the source.

CHEMISTRY

Two hundred dollars to Dr. Gerald L. Wendt, University of Chicago, for investigations at high temperatures.

Two hundred dollars to Professor Graham Edgar, of the University of Virginia, for the purchase of a quartz mercury arc lamp for research in photo-chemistry.

ASTRONOMY

Two hundred dollars to Dr. Sebastian Albrecht, of Dudley Observatory, Albany, New York, in support of his investigation of the variation of wave-length of lines in different types of stellar spectra.

Two hundred dollars to Miss Caroline E. Furness, Vassar College Observatory, for assistance in the measurement and reduction of photographic plates.

GEOLOGY

Three hundred dollars to Mr. Frank B. Taylor, Fort Wayne, Indiana, as a second grant in support of his field studies on the stages of the last glacier as it retreated down the St. Lawrence Valley.

Two hundred dollars to the Seismological Society of America, to replenish the fund at their disposal for the immediate investigation of earthquakes by sending a competent observer to the place of occurrence before much of the evidence has been obliterated.

ZOOLOGY

Two hundred dollars to Dr. P. W. Whiting, of St. Stephens College, in addition to previous grants in support of his study of genetics in insects.

Four hundred and fifty dollars to Dr. N. A. Cobb, of the United States Department of Agriculture, for aid in a series of researches into the physiology of the cell; also to defray cost of publication of results already on hand.

BOTANY

Three hundred dollars to Professor George B. Rigg, of the University of Washington, for work on the sphagnum bogs of the Puget Sound region.

Five hundred dollars to Professor J. M. Greenman, Missouri Botanical Garden, toward the completion of his work on the *Senecio* and related genera.

PSYCHOLOGY

One hundred and fifty dollars to Professor T. R. Garth, of the University of Texas, for a psychological study of Indiana children in the United States Indian Schools at Chillico, Oklahoma, and Albuquerque, New Mexico.

One hundred and fifty dollars to Professor E. G. Boring, Clark University, for the preparation of