

That the members of this council also express their willingness, in the event such a strike is not amicably settled, to wait indefinitely for the publication of the journals of the society.

THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS¹

THE Institute of Physics was inaugurated at a largely attended meeting in the hall of the Institution of Civil Engineers on April 27. The need has long been felt for a corporate body, analogous to the Institute of Chemistry, which should strengthen the position of workers engaged in physics, and form a bond between the various societies interested in the subject. The institute has now been founded by the cooperation, in the first instance, of the Faraday Society, the Optical Society and the Physical Society of London, while the Royal Microscopical Society and the Roentgen Society have since decided to participate. In opening the proceedings, the first president, Sir Richard Glazebrook, said that the work of the physicist would become more and more important in the future, both in pure and applied science, and one of the aims of the institute was to accelerate a recognition of the physicist's position and value. Many developments in physics had been of vital importance during the war, but men who had done important work as physicists could only be given an official status in some cases by being termed research chemists. He added that the membership of the institute was already about 300, and comprised most of the leaders in physical science. Sir J. J. Thomson, who, it was stated, was willing to be nominated as president for the next year, gave a brief address. He said that to one who regarded chemistry as a branch of physics it was rather anomalous that hitherto there should have been an Institute of Chemistry and not an Institute of Physics. He had been a student of physics for fifty years. At the beginning of that period physics was like an army with great generals but few troops. There were at that time perhaps a dozen laboratories in the country. Opportunities multiplied rapidly, however, and students with them, and salaries also increased so that

¹ From the *British Medical Journal*.

physics now offered to every competent man a livelihood though but small hope of a fortune. To-day the demand for competent physicists exceeded the supply. Research was expensive for the student and for the university, and perhaps this fact was not sufficiently recognized, although more money was available for research now than ever before. He saw no disposition to neglect or undervalue pure research, undertaken without any thought of an industrial application, and he congratulated the institute on representing a profession which not only contributed so largely in various ways to human comfort, but aided the intellectual development of mankind. The Right Hon. A. J. Balfour extended a cordial welcome to the Institute. He had been greatly surprised to learn that there was not already in existence an institute of physics. After all, physics was the most fundamental of all the sciences. Whatever a man's line of research might be, if he could find a physical explanation for the phenomena he was examining, then, and then only, could he hope for something like finality in his investigation. It was certainly surprising that in this country, which had not lagged behind any country in the world in the great advances it had made in regard to the physical knowledge of the universe, they had not had an institute of physics before now.

THE BOSTON MEETING OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

THE seventy-second annual session of the American Medical Association will be held in Boston, Mass., June 6-10, 1921, under the presidency of Dr. William C. Braisted. The scientific assembly of the association will open with the general meeting to be held at 8:30 P.M., Tuesday, June 7. The Sections will meet Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, June 8, 9 and 10 as follows:

Convening at 9 a.m., the Sections on Practice of Medicine; Obstetrics, Gynecology and Abdominal Surgery; Laryngology, Otolaryngology and Rhinology; Pathology and Physiology; Stomatology; Nervous and Mental Diseases; Urology; Preventive Medicine and Public Health.