

has been prepared and will soon be sent out to all who may be interested. A letter signed by the permanent secretary and Professor Liddell is to accompany the leaflet.

22. The Potato Association of America was elected to be an associated society of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

23. The executive committee expressed its gratification with respect to the fact that Retiring President McMurrich will be able to represent the Association at the Liverpool meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. It was recommended that two other representatives be appointed, this matter being left in the hands of the president.

24. The executive committee considered the difficulty encountered in securing good attendance at Council sessions after the first day of the Council meeting (on account of conflicts with section and society sessions). To avoid this difficulty as much as possible the permanent secretary was instructed to inform the members of the Council that the main session of the Council will occur on the afternoon of the first day of the annual meeting, calling attention to the fact that there will be few or no conflicts at that time and also to inform them that Council sessions on the following days will be called promptly at 9:00 and adjourned promptly at 9:45. The permanent secretary was also instructed to arrange for promptness in calling and adjourning the Council sessions.

25. The executive committee voted that it is desirable to hold at least one special joint session at the approaching Cincinnati meeting, to be devoted to the history of the association and of American science during the last seventy-five years. It was suggested that this might well be an evening session with a lecture on this subject to be given by some prominent man of science. Further details in this regard were left in the hands of a special committee, with power, consisting of J. McKeen Cattell, chairman, L. O. Howard, B. E. Livingston.

26. The executive committee expressed its gratification at the arrangement of the Society of Sigma Xi, by which Dr. W. R. Whitney, of the General Electric Company, is to give the second annual Sigma Xi lecture, under the joint

auspices of the Society of Sigma Xi and the A. A. A. S., at the third Cincinnati meeting. This lecture is to be given on the evening of the second day of the meeting, Friday, December 28, 1923.

27. The possibility of securing more extended publicity for the annual meeting by the use of a gummed label or poster, by special printing on the envelopes used in correspondence during the autumn, or by other means, was considered briefly and the permanent secretary was instructed to study this matter and proceed according to his judgment. The permanent secretary will be glad to receive suggestions from the members in this connection.

28. On account of financial and other conditions in the South and with the approval of Dr. A. P. Bourland, secretary of the Southern Education Society, it was voted that affiliation of the Southern Education Society be discontinued.

29. The request from the treasurer of the Ohio Academy of Science that the Washington office collect all academy dues of academy members who are members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science was considered and the permanent secretary was instructed to carry out this suggestion for the Ohio Academy and also for the North Carolina Academy, for one year, and to report as to its feasibility.

BURTON E. LIVINGSTON
Permanent Secretary

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE BRITISH METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE¹

THE annual report of the Meteorological Committee to the Air Council for the year ended March 31, 1922, has recently been issued. It is the sixty-seventh year of the Meteorological Office and the second report submitted to the Air Council instead of to the Treasury as formerly. The meteorological service now comprises many meteorological organizations which in past years have been carried on separately and independently. In all, the total staff aimed at to complete the organization is 375. Retrenchments undertaken, however, by all government departments have led to some modified

¹ From *Nature*.

programs for the meteorological service and reductions in the staff have taken place instead of the wished-for augmentation. The total whole-time staff of the Meteorological Office and its out-stations has changed during the year from 266 to 261. The year has seen a great increase in the interest of seamen in weather information and the report mentions that it is greatly to be regretted that this increased interest should coincide with conditions which have made it imperative to reduce rather than to extend the activities of the Marine Division. Data now being received are gradually getting back to pre-war conditions, when it was equally felt that excessive observations were costly. For forecasting work the report states that, although certain messages are still received by cable, almost all European countries have now adopted the use of wireless telegraphy and it is growing evident that it will shortly be possible to dispense with exchange of messages by cable. Much information is given relative to aviation and the upper air, new developments entailing much organization. The British Rain-fall Organization is now controlled by the Meteorological Office and among many other branches of work may be mentioned atmospheric pollution and the oversight of attached and subsidiary observatories.

THE "ZOOLOGICAL RECORD"

MR. P. CHALMERS MITCHELL, of the Zoological Society of London, writes to the *London Times* under date of April 21, as follows:

May I say that the council of the Zoological Society will much regret if the *Zoological Record*, which it has supported with increasing financial difficulty for many years, has to be dropped? But the annual loss on the issues is over £1,100, and is likely to increase as the output of zoological research increases.

Bibliographical work, although necessary for all branches of zoology, is of less immediate concern to a society whose primary function is the care and study of living animals than to museums, general laboratories, universities and the various institutions dealing with medical zoology, parasitology, economic entomology and so forth. Last year the council, in its annual report and in circulars addressed to zoologists and zoological institutions throughout the world, explained the financial position, and stated that unless those to whom the *Record* was "invaluable" showed their

appreciation of it by subscribing for a sufficient number of copies, the society could no longer undertake the publication. The response was unsatisfactory, and the council has accordingly taken the inevitable step of making it known that the *Record* will be discontinued unless substantial help is forthcoming. But it is so anxious to give those to whom the *Record* is necessary full opportunity of coming to its support, that it has undertaken to proceed with the compilation so that no time may be lost.

I fear that the suggestion of your correspondent, Mr. Stanley Kemp, in to-day's issue is not helpful; because of the drain of the *Record* on our resources we have already been compelled to suspend the publication of our "Transactions," and to postpone other scientific work of immediate interest to us; we are certainly not going to suspend the issue of our "Scientific Proceedings," which have appeared continuously since 1829, in order to carry out bibliographical work for other institutions. On the other hand, we are ready to continue the *Record*, and to regard a loss of £500 a year as part of our contribution to the common good of zoological science, if other institutions guarantee us against further loss.

A NEW CHEMICAL LABORATORY FOR HARVARD UNIVERSITY

IMMEDIATE measures for raising funds for a new chemical laboratory at Harvard University are imperative, according to the report of a committee of graduates appointed by Langdon P. Marvin, '98, president of the Associated Harvard Clubs, to consider the needs of the department of chemistry.

Stating emphatically that the present physical dilapidation of Boylston Hall, the main Harvard chemical laboratory, is "almost beyond belief" and that thirty-three years ago it was already considered antiquated, the committee asserts that even if this building is extensively repaired, "the only result achieved will be a third-class laboratory that has accommodations for about one-half the number of students that will be forced to work in it. It would be utterly impossible to provide for normal growth by such means."

Every graduate who has a son going to Harvard should visit Boylston Hall and see where he will have to work [reports the committee]. What can be said for the professors who have to do the teaching? Simply that devotion to the university and their belief in its future has kept them at their posts. Every one of them could