

the Zoological Society in the Spring of 1922, addressed to zoologists and zoological institutions throughout the world, asking for support, has produced an unsatisfactory response; that, unless substantial help is forthcoming, the *Record* will be discontinued; but that the Zoological Society is "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."

The Library Committee of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia has been authorized by the Council of the Academy to offer to the Zoological Society of London a guarantee of One Hundred Dollars toward any deficit that may arise during the year ending July 1, 1924, resulting from the publication of the volume of the *Record* issued during that year, and to communicate its action to other zoological institutions, inviting them to take similar action.

We believe that the discontinuance of *The Zoological Record* would be unquestionably a great calamity to zoologists everywhere. We would therefore urge you to consider, as soon as possible, the question of offering a sum to the Zoological Society of London as a contribution to the guarantee fund asked for in Mr. Mitchell's letter and to communicate any affirmative action to the undersigned and to send any contribution direct to the Zoological Society at Regent's Park, London, N. W. 8.

THE REMOVAL OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE RECLAMATION SERVICE

ENGINEERS are protesting against the removal of Arthur P. Davis as director of the U. S. Reclamation Service. Secretary Work's action is characterized as prejudicial to the public interest and the secretary is described as pursuing a dangerous course. The Federated American Engineering Societies have raised formal and vigorous objection to the displacement of Director Davis. The position of the federation is explained in a statement by Executive Secretary L. W. Wallace, in which he says:

Because of the far-reaching results that might ensue and because of the seriousness of the situation, the organized engineers and technical men of the United States are preparing to make a thorough search into the considerations that led to the action taken in regard to the Reclamation Service. The American Society of Civil Engineers has appointed a special committee to investigate the matter. The public affairs committee of the Federated American Engineering Societies, of which J. Parke Channing of New York is chairman, has already addressed a letter of inquiry to the secretary of the interior concerning the action.

This is being done not from the standpoint of questioning the right of a Government official to discharge any one that he may elect, but from the point of view of the wisdom of the announced policy that a technical bureau can be more effectively directed by a man not technically trained and fitted in comparison with one so technically trained and fitted.

The work of the Reclamation Service is essentially engineering and technical. There are business aspects, to be true, but so far as is known there has been no criticism of the business direction of the Service, other than perhaps by certain interests in the West who have endeavored to secure a reduction in or have endeavored to repudiate payments for reclaimed lands purchased.

Should this demand prevail, the fundamental principle of the enabling act will be displaced and the revolving fund for the continuation of the work will be dissipated, so that other needed projects can not be carried out unless there be additional drains upon the Treasury of the United States. Furthermore, should such an eventuality ensue public confidence in the integrity of the direction of such work would be so shaken as to make it difficult to secure appropriations from Congress to extend the work of reclaiming the arid lands of the west.

In the main, the support for such has come from the West, but should there be a question as to the wisdom with which the projects are selected and executed, then it is entirely probable that the West would not receive support from other sections of the country. Therefore, not only is the morale of the technical service at issue but also the larger thing, perhaps reclamation itself.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES OF PHYSIOLOGY AND PSYCHOLOGY

THE eleventh International Physiological Congress, which will be held at Edinburgh on July 23-27, under the presidency of Sir Edward Sharpey Schafer, is apparently the first scientific meeting of its kind in Scotland, and promises to be very successful. Already more than 250 physiologists from various parts of the world have signified their intention of attending the meeting, and a large number of countries will be represented. The largest contingent from abroad is coming from the United States and Canada, and will number about forty. A second notice has just been circulated, from which we see that, on presentation of an official voucher, return tickets to Edinburgh will be issued at a single fare and a third by any railway booking office in Britain. The provisional program of the congress includes a reception by the Lord Provost of Edinburgh and an address by Professor J. J. R. Macleod, of Toronto, on insulin. Those who intend to take part in the congress should, unless they have already done so, communicate with one of the secretaries, Professor G. Barger or Professor J. C. Meakins, University of Edinburgh.

The seventh International Congress of Psychology will be held at Oxford on July 26-August 2, and will differ from preceding congresses in that it will be restricted to 200 members, membership being confined to trained psychologists, and a few others approved by the committee. It is hoped to provide international symposia on subjects of present interest, the contributions being circulated in advance, and each

day will be devoted to a different aspect of psychology (general, educational, industrial, medical, social, etc.). The mornings will be occupied in the discussion of more general problems (such as the perception of time, the perception of form, the nature of general ability, the concepts of mental and nervous energy, the principles of vocational testing, the psychological value of certain psychoanalytic views), and the afternoons in the presentation of a limited number of papers offered by individual members. Exhibits of apparatus and less technical lectures will be also arranged. The recognized languages of the congress will be English, French, German and Italian.—*From Nature.*

THE LIVERPOOL MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION

THE "Preliminary Program and Invitation Circular" for the approaching Liverpool meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science has recently been received. The meeting will occur from Wednesday, September 12, to Wednesday, September 19. Members of the American Association have been cordially invited to attend the meeting and those planning to be present may secure copies of the Preliminary Program, etc., by applying to the Secretary of the British Association, Burlington House, London, W. 1. They are requested also to inform the Washington office of the American Association. It is desirable that our own records show approximately the number of our members who attend the British Association meeting. The Local Secretaries' office for the meeting will be in the Manesty Building, College Lane, Liverpool, till September 10. The Reception Room for the meeting will be at St. George's Hall.

The Liverpool meeting will be under the presidency of the noted physicist, Professor Sir Ernest Rutherford, and it will be the ninety-first annual meeting of the British Association. The inaugural general meeting will occur at 8:30 P. M., on Wednesday, September 12. At this meeting Sir Ernest Rutherford will deliver the presidential address, on "The electrical structure of matter." On the following days will occur the addresses of the sectional presidents, which are announced as follows:

Section A (Mathematics and Physics). Professor J. C. McLennan, on *The Origin of Spectra*.

Section B (Chemistry). Professor F. G. Donnan, on *The Physical Chemistry of Interfaces*.

Section C (Geology). Doctor Gertrude Elles, on *Some Aspects of Evolutionary Paleontology*.

Section D (Zoology). Professor J. H. Ashworth, on *Modern Zoology: its Boundaries and some of its Bearings on Human Welfare*.

Section E (Geography). Doctor Vaughan Cornish, on *The Position and Opportunity of the British Empire*.

Section F (Economic Science and Statistics). Sir W. H. Beveridge, on *Unemployment and Population*.

Section G (Engineering). Sir H. Fowler, on *Transport and its Indebtedness to Science*.

Section H (Anthropology). Professor P. E. Newberry, on *Egypt as a field for Anthropological Research*.

Section I (Physiology). Professor G. H. F. Nuttall, on *Symbiosis in Animals and Plants*.

Section J (Psychology). Mr. C. Burt, on *The Mental Differences between Individuals*.

Section K (Botany). Mr. A. G. Tansley, on *The Present Position of Botany*.

Section L (Educational Sciences). Professor T. P. Nunn, on *The Education of Demos*.

Section M (Agriculture). Doctor C. Crowther, on *Science and the Agricultural Crisis*.

Numerous discussions are announced, some of the topics being: *Cohesion and Molecular Forces*, *Vocational Tests for Engineering Trades*, *The Physical Chemistry of Membranes in relation to Physiological Science*, *The Delinquent Child* and *Virus Diseases of Plants*.

Saturday, September 15, is to be devoted to excursions. An exhibition of scientific apparatus is being organized and a meteorological demonstration is being arranged.

The annual meeting for 1924 will be held in Toronto, Canada.

BURTON E. LIVINGSTON,
Permanent Secretary, A. A. A. S.

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PETRO- LEUM GEOLOGISTS

THE American Association of Petroleum Geologists will hold a mid-year meeting in Los Angeles on September 20, 21 and 22. The program will be devoted to (a) papers on geologic theory with special reference to the origin and occurrence of oil and gas, (b) papers on the geology and development of California oil fields, and (c) papers on geologic problems in the major oil regions, domestic and foreign. The sessions promise to be specially interesting and unusually rich in contributions to geologic theory.

The meeting follows immediately the Special Summer Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and at the same place, making attendance at both meetings particularly convenient. The American Association of Petroleum Geologists hopes that many, perhaps all, of those attending the earlier meeting may remain over for the latter. Every member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, whether geologist or not, will find this meeting interesting and profitable, and every member is warmly invited to attend and to take part in the discussions.

MAX W. BALL,
President