

observatory, will be of incalculable value to science if they can be secured. To equip such an expedition as this requires a large sum of money, and there is an ever present possibility of failure at the last moment should atmospheric conditions at the time be such as to affect the visibility and to make the taking of the photographs an impossibility.

To compensate for possible loss of time and money, and to enable future expeditions to carry on the work with the same funds until they are rewarded with success, the Swarthmore expedition desires to go to Mexico armed with insurance against those conditions over which they have no control.

The policy, which is written under the rain insurance form, provides:

If by reason of weather conditions affecting visibility only, or by vibration of instruments caused by winds in the State of Durango, Mexico, on Sept. 10, 1923, between 2:34:17 P. M. and 2:37:16 P. M., or thereabouts, standard time, the insured is prevented from taking photographs of scientific value of the eclipse of the sun, then this company shall be liable for and shall pay the amount set forth in the schedule below.

The schedule sets forth the description of the cameras used and the number of plates to be exposed. The policy provides further that the determination of the scientific value of the pictures shall be left to Professor George H. Peters, of the United States Naval Observatory, Washington, D. C. His findings are to be conclusive and binding upon both parties.

THE LIVERPOOL MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION

THE ninety-first annual meeting of the British Association will be held at Liverpool from September 12 to 19. According to the *London Times* it promises to be larger than any of its predecessors, it being expected that between 3,000 and 3,500 persons will attend, of whom about 1,500 will be visitors. The last meeting in Liverpool was in 1896, when Sir Joseph Lister was the president. This year Sir E. Rutherford occupies that position, and the subject of his address will be the "Electrical structure of matter." There are thirteen sections, and five addresses by their presidents will be delivered on September 13, five on September 14 and three on September 17.

It has been the rule at many previous meetings for the British Association to devote particular attention to some branch of scientific study relevant to the town which it is visiting. Last year, at Hull, sea fisheries formed the subject for consideration; and this year geologists and geographers are making a special feature of subjects which are of local interest to Liverpool and district. Professor P. G. H. Boswell will open a discussion at the first meeting of the geological section on the "Geology of the Liverpool District," and Sir A. Strahan, ex-director of the Geological Sur-

vey, will discuss the "Geography of the Liverpool District from Pre-Glacial Times to the Present"; while in the geography section papers on "The Region around the Mersey and Dee Estuaries" will be submitted by Mr. W. Hewitt, Mr. H. King and Mr. K. C. Moore.

The association will be strong this year in the attendance of foreign representatives. Ten or a dozen leading Canadian scientists are going, and their presence may be regarded as having particular reference to the meeting of the association next year at Toronto and the arrangements that will be made by the general committee in relation thereto. There are altogether about thirty foreigners expected, mostly French and Danes. Among them are Professor Langevin, of Paris; Signor Conti, of Florence; Dr. Coster and Dr. Henesy, of Copenhagen; Dr. Roule, Paris; Professor Jespersen and Professor N. Bohr, of Copenhagen.

An addition to the program is an address by Dr. F. W. Aston, of Cambridge, who gave an "Atomic theory" lecture last year at Hull, on new matter which has been the result of his past year's work. In the Engineering and Psychology Sections discussions will take place on "Vocational tests for engineering trades." Afternoon meetings are said to be becoming a feature of increased importance. The committee has found that these fixtures are appreciated, and they have been fixed, therefore, for 5 o'clock, because people who cannot attend the meetings of the association during working hours can be present at that hour. These addresses will be given by Dr. G. H. Miles on "Vocational Guidance"; Dr. C. S. Grundy on "Teaching Music to Children," with an orchestral demonstration; Dr. Schmidt on "The Dana expeditions and their work on the life-history of the eel."

On Tuesday evening, the eighteenth, a scientific *soirée* will be given at the Liverpool University. This is a new feature, and is on the lines of the Royal Society's *soirées* in Burlington House, Piccadilly, with demonstrations and short lectures. Another feature is the scientific exhibition, which will be run by the Liverpool authorities, at which a large number of scientific instrument makers will be the exhibitors.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Pan-Pacific Scientific Congress, in which fourteen nations are represented, was opened at Melbourne on August 13, with the presidential address by Sir David O. Masson.

DR. EDGAR F. SMITH, provost emeritus of the University of Pennsylvania and past-president of the American Chemical Society, has been made an Officer of the Legion of Honor of France. The insignia