

taneously with the originals shown during the address itself in the Philharmonic Hall. The address was well heard in most parts of the British Isles, and was even picked up so far away as Switzerland. This is, indeed, an example of the development of physical science since the last Liverpool meeting held in 1896.

The place of the customary second evening lecture was taken by a most successful scientific soirée given by the local committee at the university. A wonderful series of experimental and other exhibits had been arranged and a most comprehensive program had been prepared, but unfortunately, owing to the awkward lay-out of the university buildings, it must have been nearly impossible for very many of the large and enthusiastic gathering to see properly one half of all the interesting things on view or to hear many of the excellent series of lecturettes. Such a soirée, however, is full of value and was greatly appreciated, and the excellence of all the arrangements at it reflected the greatest credit on all those concerned in its organization.

EXPEDITION FOR THE STUDY OF TROPICAL DISEASES IN SAMOA

ACCORDING to the London correspondent of the *Journal* of the American Medical Association a new expedition to the tropics for the study of disease is about to start for Samoa under the auspices of the London School of Tropical Medicine. Its main object is the study of filariasis, which affects eighty-five per cent. of the natives of the Pacific Islands. The expedition will be under the direction of Dr. Buxton, a fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, who is well known for his work in entomology, performed in Mesopotamia during the war, and later as entomologist for the Palestine government in Jerusalem. The expedition will be away for two years and will have its headquarters at Apia. It will work in cooperation with the New Zealand government, which is responsible for the administration of the Samoan group. It is thought that the susceptibility of the Polynesians to disease, especially to tuberculosis, and the decline of their numbers to the extent of threatened extinction, may be due to filariasis. Infection seems to be due to a *Stegomyia* mosquito which is apparently confined to the Pacific Islands. An attempt will be made to eliminate the disease by exterminating the mosquito on lines similar to those that were adopted in Panama and other places. It is thought that the problem is comparatively simple, as the mosquito lives in and around coconut trees and is found in the empty coconut shells, which are stacked in the making of copra. It is proposed to take over a small island a mile or so in diameter, where every breeding place of the mosquito will be effectively dealt with. The native method of storing water is in artificially hol-

lowed coconut trees. It is proposed to substitute, for these, properly constructed cisterns. Moreover, the mosquito does not seem able to exist where the dense undergrowth has been properly cut down. If airways or rides are cut through the dense jungle and the insect is exposed to the trade winds of the Pacific, it may be blown away. An object lesson of this kind can then be applied to the larger islands. Other parasitic diseases prevalent in Samoa, particularly ancylostomiasis, will also be studied. Finally, the effects of the tropical climate on Europeans will be investigated more minutely than has been done previously. The finer methods available since the recent development of biochemistry will be used. Thus, the effect of the sun's rays on the human skin will be investigated with the catathermometer. As an expert ornithologist and entomologist, Dr. Buxton also hopes to bring back a collection of birds and insects (many of which are becoming extinct) for the British Museum.

THE ADJUSTMENT OF AUTOMOBILE HEADLIGHTS

THE Bureau of Standards is conducting work on the better adjustment of automobile headlights. In addition to that carried out locally in the District of Columbia, the bureau is sponsoring a national movement to secure headlight adjustment. A representative of the bureau emphasized the importance of the member club activity in this matter at a meeting of officials of the National Motorists Association in Cleveland, September 20, 21 and 22. This association and the American Automobile Association, as well as all similar organizations, are in a particularly favorable position to place before motorists the necessity for headlight adjustment. The problem has also been discussed in the broadcasting programs which the American Automobile Association sends out through radio station WRC.

The National Automobile Chamber of Commerce is calling the attention of motor car manufacturers to the necessity of closer supervision of their dealer and service activities so that the two or three million new cars turned out annually will have properly adjusted headlights. The Motor and Accessory Manufacturers' Association has made a similar offer to get in touch with headlight manufacturers to insure the furnishing with all headlight devices of simple and adequate instructions for their adjustment. The Society of Automotive Engineers is giving active support through its Standards Committee, particularly along the lines of standardizing and improving headlight construction.

If all headlights could be focused in the same manner, this would simplify the instructions required and facilitate adjustment. In fact, any action taken which may make adjustment easier will be a step forward.

All the national associations approached have