cases they are issued by learned societies or by universities; in others by semi-private groups of scientific persons. Few have a wide circulation and most appear rather irregularly. Some even have brief existences or change their names and places of issue; and yet in any one of them at any time there may be work of vital moment to other workers in the advancement of knowledge, or ready for immediate application to human needs.

The Conjoint Board of Scientific Societies, before it was dissolved, more than a year ago worked out a scheme for preparing and publishing a list of the scientific periodicals published all over the world within the years 1900–1921, with an indication of the chief centers in Great Britain and Ireland where any of these periodicals were taken. The board, before winding up, transferred the scheme to Sir Arthur Schuster, Mr. Robert Mond and Dr. Chalmers Mitchell as trustees to place it on a permanent footing. This has now been done by the formation of a non-profit sharing registered company, "The World List." A large number of libraries have promised to subscribe for the volume when issued and the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust have generously guaranteed a grant-in-aid by which publication is assured.

The trustees of the British Museum, recognizing the importance of the undertaking, consented to allow the work of compilation to be made part of the official duty of the Department of Printed Books. Under the able direction of Dr. A. W. Pollard, keeper of the department, the compilation of the list has now been completed. Over 20,000 scientific periodicals have been catalogued and arranged in alphabetical order, but it is already apparent that before the volume is finally printed materials will have accumulated for a supplement containing certain journals whose existence had not been discovered, as well as others published since 1920.

The Clarendon Press has undertaken the printing. The first sheet has already been passed through the press, and the work will go on continuously until completion. The lists are in double columns on quarto pages printed only on one side of the page, so that there will be space for such notes as to the contents or character of the periodicals as may suit individual libraries to make. By the use of a rubber stamp to indicate which periodicals it contains, any library may turn this part of the volume into its own catalogue.

So far the compilation has required only time and expert knowledge. There now remains the difficult but vital business of indicating the chief libraries at which the periodicals may be found. In the alphabetical list each entry has a consecutive number. It will be followed by an index-section, in which the number assigned to each periodical will have printed against it alphabetical symbols for the cooperating libraries possessing a file of it, printed in small capitals grouped under alphabetical symbols for the towns in which these libraries are situated. A third section will explain the symbols for the towns and libraries.

THE LIBRARY OF THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

CONSIDERABLE progress has been made in classifying and shelving the newly acquired collection of books purchased for the Library of the New York Botanical Garden from Geneva, but the work, which is being pushed as rapidly as possible by Dr. John Hendley Barnhart, bibliographer, and Miss Sarah H. Barlow, librarian, will require considerable time to finish. The Geneva collection when received filled ninety-three large packing cases and weighed more than twelve tons.

A brief summary of the collection, which was sold for 72,000 Swiss francs, and which is considered the most important collection of books on botany and horticulture that has come to the new world from the old, has been made to the *Times* by Dr. Barnhart. He is reported to have said that the city of Geneva, Switzerland, has long been the home of three botanical institutions ranking among the most famous of their kind in the world. One was the De Candolle herbarium, established by Augustin Pierre de Candolle (1778–1841), and maintained and developed by his son Alphonse, his grandson Casimir, and his great grandson Augustin de Candolle. Another was the Boissier herbarium, established by Pierre Edmon Boissier (1810–1885), afterward owned and enlarged by his son-in-law, Willian Barbey. Until ten years ago these two great collections remained under private ownership, although visited and used almost as if they were public institutions by students from all parts of the world. The third, actually public, was the botanical conservatory of the city of Geneva, its great collections brought together from various sources, but based originally upon the Delessert herbarium, one of the most extensive private collections of dried plants ever brought together. This was amassed by Baron Benjamin Delessert (1773–1847).

William Barbey died in 1914, Casimir de Candolle in 1918, and in both cases their famous collections soon afterward became the property of the city of Geneva and were consolidated with the collections of the already existing city institution. Each of the great herbaria had required an equally extensive and important library for use in connection with it, and the consolidation resulted in much duplication. Some of the duplicates could be used, but it was decided to sell them in a single lot to some other botanical insti-

tution. The opportunity to acquire this collection was recognized by the director of the New York Botanical Garden, Dr. N. L. Britton, as one of the kind that comes but once in a lifetime. The offer was tentatively accepted by him at once and arrangements begun for acquiring the collection, which is now rapidly being incorporated into the library of the garden.

The collection of about 5,000 bound volumes, and still unaccounted thousands of pamphlets, is noteworthy in several respects. It contains many rare works, much used in botanical study, but difficult to secure. A large number of the books are in fine bindings, the majority of the bindings as good as new. There are complete sets of many periodicals, which form the backbone of any scientific library.

THE TORONTO MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION

THE preliminary program of the annual meeting of the British Association in 1924, to be held in Toronto, Ontario, on August 6–13, under the presidency of Sir David Bruce, has been issued and is abstracted in *Nature*. This will be the second occasion on which the association has visited Toronto, the first being in 1897, under the presidency of Sir John Evans, the second of the three meetings previously held in Canada (Montreal, 1884; Toronto, 1897; Winnipeg, 1909). Active measures are being taken, both in Toronto and at home, with the object of ensuring that the meeting shall afford an exceptional opportunity for intercourse between British, Canadian, American and European workers in science, and, to visiting members, a unique occasion for acquainting themselves with the manifold scientific interests of the Dominion. The University of Toronto, which ranks with its affiliated colleges as one of the largest in the British Empire, will be the principal center of the meeting.

The association will meet in thirteen sections as follows, the names of the president and recorder of each being given, together with the address of the latter: A (Mathematics and Physics): Sir William Bragg; Professor A. O. Rankine, Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, S.W. 7; B (Chemistry): Sir Robert Robertson; Professor C. H. Desch, University, Sheffield; C (Geology): Professor W. W. Watts; Professor W. T. Gordon, King's College, Strand, London, W.C. 2; D (Zoology): Professor G. Elliot Smith; Professor R. D. Laurie, University College, Aberystwyth; E (Geography): Professor J. W. Gregory; Dr. R. N. Rudmose Brown, University, Sheffield; F (Economic Science and Statistics): Sir William Ashley; Professor H. M. Hallsworth, Armstrong College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; G (Engineering): Professor G. W. O. Howe; Professor F. C. Lea, 36 Mayfield Road, Moseley, Birmingham; H (Anthropology): Dr. F. C. Shrubsall; Mr. E. N. Fallaize, Vinchelez, Chase Court Gardens, Enfield, Middlesex; I (Physiology): Dr. H. H. Dale, Professor C. Lovatt Evans, Physiological Laboratory, St. Bartholomew's Medical College, London, E.C. 1; J (Psychology): Professor W. McDougall; Dr. Ll. Wynn Jones, 7 St. Mary's Avenue, Harrogate; K (Botany): Professor V. H. Blackman; Mr. F. T. Brooks, 31 Tenison Avenue, Cambridge; L (Educational Science): Principal Ernest Barker; Mr. D. Berridge, 1 College Grounds, Malvern; M (Agriculture): Sir John Russell; Mr. C. G. T. Morison, School of Rural Economy, Oxford.

The inaugural general meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 6, in the Convocation Hall of the University of Toronto, when Sir David Bruce will deliver his presidential address. In the sections, addresses will be delivered by the respective sectional presidents, and papers will be read, on and after Thursday, August 7, until the conclusion of the meeting (Wednesday, August 13).

A preliminary program of excursions after the meeting is also being arranged. For those able to devote the maximum time, an excursion across Canada to Vancouver, and possibly also to Prince Rupert and Victoria, is contemplated.

CHARLES W. ELIOT

ON behalf of the Harvard Alumni Association its Secretary, J. W. D. Seymour, announces that in honor of the ninetieth birthday of Charles W. Eliot, president emeritus of Harvard University, a public tribute will be paid in Cambridge, Mass., on March 20. The event will be attended not only by representatives of the 45,000 Harvard Alumni, but also by leading citizens from all over the country who have shown their desire to honor the president emeritus in recognition of his services as "a citizen." A Citizens Committee is now in the process of organization; its membership, which will consist of many national figures, will be announced later.

Charles W. Eliot was president of Harvard University for forty years—from 1869 to 1909; he was born in Boston in 1834, and graduated from Harvard in 1853. His election as president was considered remarkable, both because of his youth—he was only 35—and because he was a layman and scientist.

While president, Mr. Eliot led in the development of graduate schools and the elective system in undergraduate work. The Harvard Medical School and the Harvard Law School largely grew to their present importance and influence under his administration.