

FIG. 1. Ratio chart showing decrease in proportion of almshouse paupers to the total population from 1910 to 1923. Solid lines, enumerated on January 1 of year; broken lines, paupers admitted to almshouse during years 1910 and 1922.

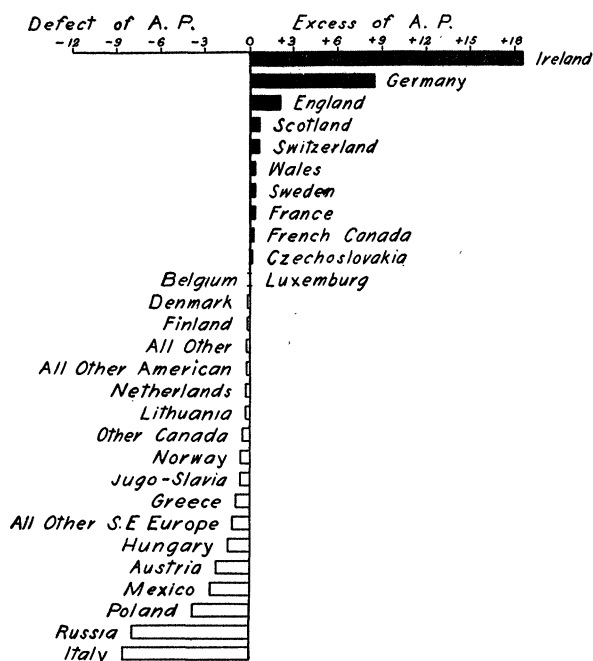


FIG. 2. Showing the excess (black bars) or defect (white bars) of the percentage presentation of different racial groups in public almshouses, as compared with their representation in the general population.

ism in 1923 than their representation in the general population in 1920. Immigration from five coun-

tries in particular, Austria, Mexico, Poland, Russia and Italy, has been subjected to much criticism. It is interesting to note that the immigrants from each of these five countries contributed proportionately less to our almshouse pauperism in 1923 than any other group of foreign-born people in the country.

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### ROMEYN BECK HOUGH—1857-1924

WHEN an official or one connected with an outstanding educational institution ceases his scientific work, the fact is noted usually and his life effort is appraised. When, as an amateur, he has rendered comparable service to science, this is more likely to be overlooked.

Romeyn Hough is one whose contributions to a knowledge of North American trees ought not to be overlooked because his name may be sought in vain year after year in the bibliographic records of dendrology. He may never have appended his name to a specific binomial or a varietal trinomial. He may never have expressed in print curiosity even as to why some people put dogwood and peperidge into one family, while others consider them representative of two families. But, accepting the taxonomic and nomenclatorial views of those whom he felt disposed to consider authoritative on these vexed questions, he did very much to make it easier for people to become acquainted personally with our trees.

His interest in nature was not artificially implanted and skilfully nourished; it was inherited. Forestry as a national interest took form under his father, Franklin B. Hough. To father and son natural history was a matter of out-of-doors; the real thing appealed to them rather than its presentment. Before Romeyn entered college he knew a great deal of nature—the kind of nature-lore that few have and still fewer teach now-a-days. One of the privileges of my early years at Cornell was to get afield with him. Only last fall we recalled a never-to-be-forgotten example of mother love that a flying squirrel showed us nearly fifty years ago.

Hough never became a teacher: perhaps he was not drawn to the routine of pointing out to others what he found pleasure in seeking out for himself. He qualified as a physician, like his father; but he really became in a sense a manufacturer and publisher, combining avocation with vocation, for he manufactured structural sections—macroscopic and microscopic—of the trees that he knew so well.

Many years ago, Nordlinger issued a series of small thin cross-sections of German and exotic woods. I think that eleven centuries of these were issued. A

few other scarcely notable series of the same kind have been published. Hough conceived the idea of issuing our native woods in larger sections, representing side by side the three—cross, radial and tangential—needed for a stereo visualization of the stem structure. Thirteen fascicles, of twenty-five species each, have been published; and these auto-illustrations stand alone in their field. Mastering the technique of cutting such sections opened a commercial industry in cross-section business cards and the like, the use of which he promoted extensively.

Monographs and manuals of North American trees are many and varied; unique among them is Hough's "Handbook of the Trees of the Northern United States and Canada," with its admirably selected and prepared phototype and distribution map and a photographic reproduction of the cross-section of the wood of each species.

It is to be regretted that their author did not live to bring out two contemplated additional fascicles of the sections of American woods, and a "Handbook of Western Trees" that he planned as a companion to the eastern volume; but there is reason to hope that the materials for both are sufficiently in hand to insure their publication. Whether this be so or not, however, Romeyn B. Hough has made a rare contribution to American botany in a model book, and especially in a series of illustrations consisting of the woods themselves—which, unlike texts and drawings, never can become out-of-date nor be found to contain untruths except as the names applied in his day to the trees he sectioned undergo change with progressing knowledge.

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## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL CONGRESS<sup>1</sup>

THE project of an International Geographical Congress to be held at Cairo in 1925 was first discussed over two years ago in association with the coming jubilee of the foundation of the Sultanieh Geographical Society of Egypt. It soon developed into a plan for the revival of the old international congresses held in different countries before the war, being regarded by its promoters in Rome (where the tenth congress was held) as the eleventh of the series. Circulars of invitation were issued on this basis by a committee formed in Egypt, but it was pointed out that by the decision of the International Research Council, formed shortly after the end of the war, the constitution of

the old Congress was abrogated, and that the duty of organizing future congresses should rest with the International Geographical Union formed in Brussels in July 1922 in affiliation with the International Research Council. A somewhat delicate situation thus arose which has since been happily regularized by the adhesion of Egypt to the International Research Council, and the issue of new circulars of invitation under the Statutes of the International Geographical Union. The congress will take place (probably from April 2 to 12, 1925) under the patronage of King Fuad I, and will be organized by the Royal Geographical Society of Egypt, from whose members the organizing committee is chosen. The Secretariat and inquiry office are installed in the premises of that society in the Public Works Ministry Garden, and a handbook of information has been issued giving details of the arrangements so far made. Tickets of membership will be issued at a charge of £1, and will confer all benefits in the way of reduction of fares by steamer and railway, etc. The meetings will take place at various centers in Cairo and Alexandria. A provisional program has been drawn up, covering the various principal branches of geography and their subdivisions, and a scheme of excursions arranged, the two principal being, (1) that from Cairo to Aswân or Wadi Halfa, (2) that on the Gulf of Suez and the Red Sea. The handbook includes useful general information on Egyptian matters, together with a geological map (showing routes of excursions) and a plan of Cairo.

### EXHIBITION OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION AT WASHINGTON

AN exhibition of new scientific apparatus, research methods and results of scientific research is being planned as an important feature of the fifth Washington meeting of the American Association and associated organizations. Previous efforts of the association in this direction have been increasingly successful and the Washington exhibition promises to surpass earlier ones in value and interest to research workers and teachers in all fields of science. Manufacturers of scientific apparatus and supplies, and publishers of scientific books, are showing a renewed and increased interest, and many firms will be represented. It is hoped that individual investigators will also take an active part, exhibiting new devices, improvements in apparatus and methods, specially fine preparations, etc., thus giving to the whole undertaking a personal element that will be greatly appreciated. Members of the association and members of associated organizations are cordially invited and urged to help in this way. Those in charge of research laboratories are

<sup>1</sup> From *The Geographical Journal*.