

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in a series of illustrations consisting of the woods themselves—which, unlike texts and drawings, never can become out-of-date nor be found to contain untruths except as the names applied in his day to the trees he sectioned undergo change with progressing knowledge.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 CONGRESS¹

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

¹ From *The Geographical Journal*.

asked to arrange for exhibits to represent their various lines of work. Manufacturers and publishers are also heartily invited to exhibit their products. No charge is to be made for the entry of any exhibits, but the requisite space should be arranged for in advance and each exhibit should be placed and cared for by the exhibitor or his representative. The association will make arrangements for the necessary rooms, lighting, etc., but of course can not be responsible for the articles and materials exhibited. Arrangements for the entering of exhibits, by individual scientists and research laboratories as well as by manufacturers and publishers, are to be made by correspondence with Dr. Charles A. Shull, Department of Botany, the University of Chicago.

Many of the research laboratories of Washington are to be open for visit and inspection by those who attend the approaching Washington meeting and numerous special devices and research methods will be on exhibition in this way.

It seems clear that these American Association for the Advancement of Science exhibitions should become increasingly valuable as definite aids to the advancement of American science. Great progress has already been made, but this feature of the annual all-science meetings is worthy of much more attention than has been accorded it in the past. These meetings are unique in the fact that they offer each year the only opportunity for a large and representative gathering of all kinds of scientific workers and teachers of the sciences from all parts of the United States and Canada. Attendance at the annual gatherings in recent years has been about two thousand and it is safe to predict that a much larger number will attend the Washington meeting next December. It is specially desirable that scientific workers should be acquainted with the activities of their colleagues, not only in their own respective fields but in all fields, for we are increasingly impressed with the essential unity of science. The annual exhibitions furnish a very valuable and helpful means toward this end and a much needed adjunct to the presentation of papers before the several societies and sections.

BURTON E. LIVINGSTON,
Permanent Secretary

MEETING OF THE AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

THE eighty-sixth annual meeting of the American Statistical Association will be held at Chicago on December 29 and 31. The experiment tried out last year of having the several sessions of the annual meeting deal with various phases of one general subject proved so successful that it has been decided to repeat the plan at the coming annual meeting of the

association. The president, after consultation with other members of the association, has selected the topic "Population," and has developed a program on that theme. The subject is not only of great importance both theoretically and practically, but is one in which the statistician is in a strategic position to make a vital contribution to current political and economic thought. Moreover, it is a subject which bears directly upon the research activities of many of our members.

The subject of population is also arousing interest in allied scientific fields. For this reason it has been possible to arrange for joint sessions with the American Economic Association, and the American Association for Labor Legislation. With the economists we will discuss the connection between population and natural resources; with the labor legislation group the subject of population and the labor supply. In addition, we will develop independently three sessions, the first dealing with a statement of the problem and its various ramifications; the third dealing with the racial constitution of the population and the problem of immigration; and a final meeting in which we will discuss the outlook for the future, and the practical steps which should be taken in developing a rational public health, economic and social program.

As the subject is such a broad one and the time in which to cover it is so limited, the individual sessions are necessarily rather long and in some cases contain more papers than is altogether desirable. But it was necessary to arrange the program thus, in order to cover all angles of the subject and to round out every vital phase of the question. It is, therefore, impossible to appoint set persons to discuss each paper. But since many of our members are actively engaged in research work in this field, it should be possible to have a lively, even if it appear like an impromptu, discussion from the floor. There will be a reasonable length of time set aside expressly for such discussion and it is hoped that many of our members will show their interest by adding their contributions to the set papers which are scheduled.

Though the general outline of the program is fairly well settled, there is still time to make a few additions and changes and to this end suggestions and recommendations are earnestly requested. Information concerning original investigations now in process and the names of contributors who are doing valuable work on this subject should be sent to the president. Above all it is hoped that many members will attend and take an active part in the discussion. The success of the conference, as a whole, will depend upon the enthusiasm and whole-hearted support of each member.

LOUIS I. DUBLIN,
President