congress Dr. H. H. Whetzel and Dr. B. M. Duggar attended the meeting of the British Association at Toronto. A special effort will be made to reach all workers in the plant sciences.

The cooperative interest of the division of biology of the National Research Council and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science has been assured. The organizing committee records with special gratification the courtesy of Cornell University in permitting the use of its facilities for the congress, thus assuring a convenient geographical location and a most favorable physical environment. President Farrand's letter is appended.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Office of the President.

Ithaca, N. Y., Sept. 23, 1924.

Professor H. H. Whetzel,
College of Agriculture.

Dear Professor Whetzel:

I have been very much interested in hearing of the plans for the International Congress of Plant Sciences to be held in the summer of 1926 and I need not say that the prospect of having that important meeting in Ithaca is a source of great satisfaction to Cornell University. That our resources will be put entirely at the disposal of the congress goes without saying and the members may be assured of a very warm welcome.

I know of nothing which reacts with more benefit to a university than assemblies of this kind and I venture to hope that visitors from a distance may find something of interest here to justify the choice of place of meeting.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) LIVINGSTON FARRAND.

The date arranged for the congress has been selected after taking into consideration a variety of circumstances affecting both the place of meeting and the convenience of those attending from far and near.

Organizing Committee:

H. C. COWLES, *Secretary*
B. M. DUGGAR, *Chairman*
H. H. WHETZEL

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

LOGARITHMETICA BRITANNICA

THE Cambridge University Press is issuing under the auspices of the Biometrical Laboratory, University College, London, "Logarithmetica Britannica," a table of logarithms to twenty decimal places by Alex. J. Thompson, of the General Registrar's Office, Somerset House, London. Part Nine, the first to be published, contains the numbers 90,000 to 100,000. In the prefatory note Professor Karl Pearson writes:

This year is the tercentenary of the first great work of Henry Briggs, the friend and coadjutor of Napier of Merchistoun, and the computer of the first, and still perhaps the most valuable, table of common logarithms. Briggs's *Arithmetica Logarithmica* appeared in 1624, one year before the death of King James. The growth of British mathematics amid the bloody faction and political turmoil of the Stuarts—especially noteworthy in the case of the wizard Laird of Merchistoun—is one of the remarkable facts in the history of science. But this is not the occasion to enter into that matter or indeed into the life of Briggs himself. The purpose of this publication lies in the endeavor to celebrate the tercentenary of his great achievement in a worthy manner. We would, however, willingly have provided a portrait of Briggs could such have been discovered, but inquiries in Cambridge, Oxford, London, of Lord Napier and Ettrick, and of the Yorkshire family of which he was a member have been fruitless, and the reader must be content with a specimen page of the scarce tract of 1617 in which Briggs first drew the notice of the scientific world to the advantages of logarithms to the base 10.

When it came to my knowledge that the French proposed to issue a fourteen figure table and the Germans a fifteen figure table, it seemed to me that it was fitting that the land wherein logarithms were cradled should rise to the occasion and issue a standard table—*Logarithmetica Britannica*—to twenty figures.

In a certain sense the day of logarithmic tables to 4, 5, 6 or 7 figures is past. The users of such tables are either ignorant of the existence of slide-rules and mechanical calculators, or else unfortunately can not afford them. Where much computing has to be done logarithms to a few figures are rarely if ever used. What are used and are often badly needed are logarithmic tables to 10, 15 or 20 figures. They are wanted for work where the more or less customary machines with 9×10 showing 18 and the more unusual and costly machines with 12×12 showing 20 figures on the slide fail to give results of adequate accuracy without great expenditure of labor. In statistical and computating laboratories—especially in cases where new tables have to be prepared for publication—the original Briggs or original Vega are in greater demand than any more contracted logarithmic tables. Yet their high cost, their rarity and uncorrected errors render, as the French and the Germans have recognized, new tables desirable.

THE DEEP SEA OCEANOGRAPHIC EXPEDITION OF THE NEW YORK ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY[1]

PLANS for the Ninth Expedition of the Department of Tropical Research are well advanced. The *Arcturus* has been officially turned over to William Beebe, director of the forthcoming trip, and the plans for the building of the laboratory, extra staterooms, photographic room, etc., are complete.

The expedition will start early in January, and the first stop will be in the Sargasso Sea. The eastern

[1] From the Bulletin of the New York Zoological Society.