

to be 41 inches in diameter. Whatever might be the differences between peoples, whether temporary or not, science, like art, literature or music, was international. They could not place any boundaries upon it. There could be no distinction between scientific work carried on in one part of the world or another as scientific work. The position of scientific workers as citizens was quite another matter. It was independent of the results achieved in scientific investigation. They were present purely in that spirit of intellectual cooperation between men working for the advancement of knowledge in Russia and in this country, and for no other reason but to offer, as it were, a message of strength and encouragement to those in Russia to carry on the work there.

Professor A. N. Kriloff, a member of the Russian Academy of Sciences; Professor P. I. Schmidt, curator of the Zoological Museum of the Russian Academy, and Mme. Z. Vengerova gave addresses on the work of the academy.

Sir A. Smith Woodward proposed:

That this meeting of members and friends of the Society for Cultural Relations between the Peoples of the British Commonwealth and the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics sends cordial greetings and congratulations to scientific workers in the U.S.S.R., on the celebration of the bicentenary of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and in high appreciation of the great work by which the Academy has enriched the knowledge and culture of the world during the past two centuries, looks with confidence to the future for further contributions to promote the intellectual unity of mankind.

Dr. T. R. Parsons, of the University of Cambridge, seconded the resolution. He said he had recently visited some of the Russian scientific institutions, and any mention of Russian science would be incomplete without a reference to its physiology. The resolution was carried unanimously.

THE CONGRESS OF CLIMATOLOGY

DR. LEONARD HILL, of the National Institute for Medical Research, London, writes in the *London Times* that so successful was the Congress of Climatology just held at Davos that it has been decided to organize future congresses, one to be held in a different country every third year. Most distinguished scientific men have attended the recent congress, which has devoted itself to the study of climate and meteorology as applied to biology and preventive and curative medicine, but unfortunately the English and French members have been very few in number, and the English Foreign Office, by some oversight, failed to reply to the invitation to send an official representative, an invitation which was accepted by several

other nations. The general secretary appointed for the organization of future congresses is Dr. Vogel-Eysern, of Davos, who has organized the recent one. The chairman of the organizing committee is Geh. Professor Abderhalden.

Davos offered three great centers of interest—first, the observatory of Dr. Dorno, famous for his application of the study of meteorology to biology and medicine; secondly, the new Swiss Institute under Professor Loewy for the study of physiology and tuberculosis treatment at high altitudes; and thirdly, the climatic conditions and sanatoria of Davos, famous for the treatment of tuberculosis. The proceedings of the congress, when published, will show the importance of the communications made to it in regard to meteorology, botany, physiology and hygiene and curative treatment.

THE SCIENCE NEWS CONFERENCE

A LUNCHEON-CONFERENCE was held at Southampton (England) on August 28 to discuss the advisability and feasibility of establishing a British Science News Service along the general lines of the existing American Science News Service. There were present at the conference: Professor J. H. Ashworth, University of Edinburgh; Sir John Biles, president of the Federation of Engineering Societies; Major A. G. Church, secretary of the National Union of Scientific Workers; E. N. Fallaize, secretary of the Royal Anthropological Institute; Sir Richard Gregory, editor of *Nature*; Dr. E. H. Griffiths, University of Cambridge, treasurer of the British Association for the Advancement of Science; Dr. A. C. Haddon, Christ's College, University of Cambridge; Sir A. Daniel Hall, director general of the intelligence department, Ministry of Agriculture; Professor Horace Lamb, president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science; Dr. P. Chalmers Mitchell, secretary of the Zoological Gardens and scientific editor of the *London Times*; Professor J. L. Myres, secretary of the British Association for the Advancement of Science; Sir Richard Paget, barrister, London; Joseph John Robinson, editor of the *Journal of the British Science Guild*, also a local newspaper in the provinces; Sir Arthur Schuster, past president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science; F. E. Smith, head of Admiralty research work; Professor D'Arcy W. Thompson, St. Andrews University; J. David Thompson, formerly director of the research information service of the American National Research Council; Dr. Vernon Kellogg, chairman of the executive committee, and Mr. Watson Davis, managing editor of the American Science Service.

President Lamb, of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, presided at the conference

and at his request Dr. Kellogg and Mr. Davis explained the organization and work of the American Science Service and Sir Richard Gregory opened a general discussion of the possibility and desirability of developing a similar British undertaking.

At the end of the discussion it was agreed that a later conference would be arranged to be attended by selected representatives of various British scientific bodies interested in the establishment of a Science News Service at which definite steps towards establishing such a service could be taken if it was agreed that such an undertaking was desirable. The general feeling as expressed at this first conference was that such an undertaking was both desirable and feasible.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE 1926 TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

THE expedition sent by Swarthmore College from the Sproul Observatory to observe the total solar eclipse of January 14, 1926, plans to erect its instruments on the west coast of Sumatra in the vicinity of Benkoelen. The eclipse equipment was shipped from New York on the Dollar Steamship Liner *President Garfield* early in September and will reach Singapore on the third of November. The equipment will be reshipped from this port to Palembang, Sumatra, and then taken overland by rail and motor truck to its destination.

Totality occurs at Benkoelen about 2 hours 25 minutes P.M. local civil time, and lasts 3 minutes and 10 seconds. The altitude of the sun at mid-totality is approximately $52\frac{1}{2}$ degrees.

The observers of the party are Professor John A. Miller (director of the expedition); Professor Ross W. Marriott, Dr. Dean B. McLaughlin, all of Sproul Observatory, Swarthmore College; Professor Heber D. Curtis, of Allegheny Observatory, University of Pittsburgh; and Mr. Adrian Rubel, Mr. Wilson M. Powell, Jr., and Mr. Lamont Dominick, of New York. In addition to the above observers, Mrs. John A. Miller, Mrs. Heber D. Curtis, H. D. Curtis, Jr., and Mrs. Celia B. McLaughlin will accompany the expedition. Various members of the expedition have been leaving America since July, and it is expected that they all will reach Sumatra in time to get the erection of instruments under way by December 1.

Photographs of the corona will be made with cameras ranging in focal length from 30 inches to 62.5 feet. The largest of these cameras, which is of a stationary type, will have a lense 9 inches aperture mounted on a tower 50 feet high. This camera will be so constructed that it is directed to that point in the sky which marks the center of the sun at the time of mid-totality. The apparent motion of the sun

will be counteracted by a moving plate holder driven by clockwork mechanism.

A large structural iron camera carrying twin lens $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches aperture and 15 feet focal length will be mounted equatorially in a heavy structural iron polar axis whose bearings rest on heavy concrete piers. This instrument is a powerful one, and with it it is planned to photograph the corona together with the star field surrounding the sun. The camera will be controlled by a large driving clock. It will have a guiding telescope mounted on it, and will be guided on the stars by means of slow motion screws. It is further planned to make photographs with this camera in an attempt to find out whether there is any deflection of light caused by refraction due to the passage of light rays through the cooling atmosphere of the shadow cone.

Two large concave gratings will be mounted to photograph the flash spectrum. One of the gratings has coarse rulings and is of short focal length—Professor Curtis will use this to continue his work in the infra-red part of the spectrum. The other grating is ruled 20,000 lines to the inch and has a radius of curvature of 15 feet. This will be used to photograph that visual part of the spectrum between 4,500 Å and 6,500 Å.

Two etalon interferometers will be used in an attempt to detect motion in the corona. The instruments have different plate separations, but both are designed for the green coronium line $\lambda = 5,303$. Each instrument is fitted with an objective prism and a color screen to weaken the background for the interference fringes.

In addition to the above instruments a one prism slit spectrograph will be used to photograph the *Fraunhofer* lines in the corona, and an objective prism spectrograph will be mounted to search for gas clouds in the corona. Mr. Wilson Powell, Jr., will make color photographs of the corona during totality. Moving pictures will be made during the partial and total phases of the eclipse.

ROSS W. MARRIOTT

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

PROFESSOR EDWARD DE MILLE CAMPBELL, professor of chemistry and metallurgy at the University of Michigan, died on September 18, aged sixty-two years.

HENRY C. LORD, professor of astronomy and since 1895 director of the observatory at the Ohio State University, died on September 15, at the age of fifty-nine years.

At the opening sessions of the meeting of the Roentgen Ray Society in Washington on September