

## THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PHILOSOPHY

THE sixth International Congress of Philosophy was held from September 13 to 16, at Harvard University, with approximately three hundred active members in attendance, including sixty-nine from eighteen countries outside the United States, opening on Monday evening in Gore Hall dining room. According to the program President Nicholas Murray Butler, of Columbia University, chairman on behalf of the organizing committee of the congress, made the first address of welcome. He was followed by President A. Lawrence Lowell, on behalf of Harvard University; President W. E. Hocking, on behalf of the American Philosophical Association, eastern division; President R. C. Lodge, for the western division of the association, and President H. W. Stuart, for the Pacific division of the association. There followed the presentation of the foreign delegates, who by advance registration were distributed as follows: Belgium, 1; Canada, 10; Czechoslovakia, 3; France, 6; Germany, 12; Great Britain, 14; Holland, 1; India, 2; Italy, 4; Japan, 3; Poland, 5; Portugal, 1; Russia, 1; South Africa, 1; South America, 1; Spain, 1; Switzerland, 1, and Turkey, 1. Dr. Paul Lapie, rector of the University of Paris, responded on behalf of the foreign delegates. At the conclusion of the formal exercises a smoker was held in Gore Hall common room.

The program of the congress has been grouped as follows: Division A—metaphysics, philosophy of nature, philosophy of mind, philosophy of religion. Division B—logic, epistemology, philosophy of science. Division C—ethics, theory of value, social philosophy, esthetics. Division D—the history of philosophy.

Apart from numerous sectional meetings each division arranged a general program as follows:

### DIVISION A

The hypothesis of emergent evolution, its meaning and the present state of the argument concerning it.

*Chairmen*—James R. Angell, Yale; H. S. Jennings, Johns Hopkins.

*Speakers*—Hans Driesch, Leipzig; H. Wildon Carr, London; Arthur O. Lovejoy, Johns Hopkins; W. M. Wheeler, Harvard.

### DIVISION B

Continuity and discontinuity among the sciences.

*Chairmen*—Frank Thilly, Cornell; F. J. E. Woodbridge, Columbia.

*Speakers*—Federigo Enriques, Rome; Erich Becher, Munich; W. E. Hocking, Harvard.

### DIVISION C

Philosophy and international relations.

*Chairmen*—James H. Tufts, Chicago; Wilbur M. Urban, Dartmouth.

*Speakers*—Charles Bouglé, Sorbonne (La philosophie, la démocratie, et la paix); Erich Becher, Munich (Darwinism and international relations); Coriolano Alberini, Buenos Aires; Rosecoe Pound, Harvard (The part of philosophy in international law).

### DIVISION D

The rôle of philosophy in the history of civilization.

*Chairmen*—A. C. Armstrong, Wesleyan; Alexander Meiklejohn, Wisconsin.

*Speakers*—Henry Osborn Taylor, New York; Etienne Gilson, Sorbonne; John Dewey, Columbia; S. Radhakrishnan, Calcutta; Benedetto Croce, Naples (The modern conception of philosophy, read by Raffaello Piccoli, Naples).

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

ON the occasion of the anniversary meeting of the American Chemical Society, the University of Pennsylvania conferred honorary degrees on Sir James Colquhoun Irvine, principal of St. Andrews University; Gionori Conti, senator of Italy; Professor Paul Sabatier, University of Toulouse, and Professor Ernest Cohen, University of Utrecht.

AFTER the Priestley Medal had been conferred by the American Chemical Society on Dr. Edgar Fahs Smith, professor of chemistry and former provost of the University of Pennsylvania, in accordance with the award already announced, Professor Walter Taggart, of the university, presented to Dr. Smith a diploma from the University of Göttingen renewing after fifty years the doctorate of philosophy that had been awarded in 1876.

DR. WILFRED WATKINS-PITCHFORD has resigned as director of the South African Institute for Medical Research, Johannesburg, and as chairman of the miners' phthisis medical bureau on account of ill health.

DR. OTTO FISCHER, director of the State Art Gallery at Stuttgart, has been made honorary adviser of the Chinese federal museums and art galleries, with headquarters at Peking.

THE following have been elected officers of the Röntgen Society, London, for the session 1926-1927: *President*, Mr. N. S. Finzi; *Vice-presidents*, Dr. Robert Knox, Professor A. W. Porter, Professor S. Russ; *Honorary Treasurer*, Mr. Geoffrey Pearce; *Honorary Editor*, Dr. G. W. C. Kaye; *Honorary Secretaries*, Mr. Russell J. Reynolds, Professor F. L. Hopwood.

PROFESSOR E. A. SEAGAR, of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture at St. Augustine, Trinidad, at the invitation of the International Health Board, sailed for New York in August to attend a series of health conferences.

DR. WILFRED H. OSGOOD, of the Field Museum of Natural History, sailed on September 8 for Abyssinia, where he expects to collect fossils of mammals. He will be accompanied by Louis A. Fuertes, naturalist and artist; Suydam Cutting, volunteer motion picture operator, of New York, who accompanied the Roosevelt expedition to "the top of the world"; James E. Baum, Jr., sportsman, who will act as the news writer of the expedition, and Alfred M. Bailey, naturalist and taxidermist, of New York.

PROFESSOR IRVING W. BAILEY, of the Bussey Institution of Harvard University, sailed for Europe on September 4 to continue an investigation on forestry.

DR. EUGENE A. SCHWARZ, specialist in Coleoptera at the Bureau of Entomology, retired from active service, on account of age, on August 20. Dr. Schwarz is now eighty-two years old. Some years ago he was made honorary president for life of the Entomological Society of Washington.

DR. KARL RUNGE, professor of mathematics and physics at the University of Göttingen, celebrated his seventieth birthday on August 30.

AN honorary degree has been conferred by the University of Mexico on Professor H. Obermaier, of the University of Madrid, in tribute to his research on prehistoric anthropology.

RAMSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, Saint Paul, Minn., has conferred upon Frederick E. Brasch, treasurer and assistant secretary of the History of Science Society, the degree of master of science, in recognition of his work in astronomy and the history of science.

DR. HERBERT GROVE DORSEY, of Gloucester, Mass., formerly research engineer at the Submarine Signal Corporation of Boston and inventor of the submarine fathometer for visually measuring ocean depths by sound waves, has been appointed electrical engineer in the division of hydrography and topography of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey. While Washington will be his headquarters, work will begin first at Wilmington, N. C., in coordinating sonic methods of depth measurements with radio-sonic methods of position location for ocean chart making.

DR. LUCIEN HOWE, who recently gave an endowment of \$250,000 to Harvard University for the founding of a laboratory for the study of the human eye, has given up his practice in Buffalo preparatory to his departure for Boston, where he is to take up

his residence for the supervision of the work which he has started.

SIR FREDERICK KEEBLE, Sherardian professor of botany in the University of Oxford, has accepted an appointment with the Synthetic Ammonia and Nitrate Company, which is associated with Messrs. Brunner, Mond and Company, for the promotion of research in the application of synthetic nitrogen compounds to agricultural purposes.

DURING the past summer Dr. G. F. Sleggs, recently of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography of the University of California, and now professor of biology at the newly established Memorial University College of Newfoundland and oceanographer to the Newfoundland Government, has carried out biological and hydrographical research in Bonavista Bay, Trinity Bay, Conception Bay and other important Newfoundland fishery grounds. Samples of water have been obtained from a wide area and from accurately known depths for a study of plankton and temperature variations. A drift-bottle experiment has also been carried out, a satisfactory proportion of the bottles having already been recovered. The standard methods of the Scripps Institution have been largely adopted in this work, which is in cooperation with the North American Committee on Fishery Investigations and is the first of its kind to be officially supported by the Newfoundland government.

FIFTEEN foreign botanists taking part in the western field trip of the International Congress of Plant Sciences spent September 2 at Fort Collins, Colorado, as guests of the Colorado Agricultural College. Under the leadership of Dr. Herbert C. Hanson, in charge of ecological work at the college, a brief field survey was made of the vegetation of the region. Among those participating in the discussions were Drs. E. Rübel and John Briquet, of Switzerland; A. B. Rendle and T. W. Woodhead, of England, and F. E. Clements and Geo. D. Fuller, of the United States.

DONALD B. MACMILLAN, with the twenty-six members of the expedition to the Arctic Circle sent out by the Field-Columbian Museum, arrived at Tenant's Cove, Me., on September 10. The expedition is reported to have been completely successful.

A RADIOGRAM from the schooner *Morrissey*, on which Captain Robert Bartlett and a party have been conducting research work in the Arctic regions, has been received, reporting that the expedition is on the way home.

H. H. BENNETT, of the bureau of soils of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has recently returned to Washington from southern Cuba after making a

reconnaissance soil survey of it for the department in cooperation with the Cuban Sugar Club.

DR. G. J. HUCKER, associate bacteriologist of the New York Agricultural Experiment Station, has recently sailed for Scotland and England, *en route* to Copenhagen and Stockholm. During the coming year he will continue his studies of the streptococci, working with Dr. S. Orla Jensen and Dr. Chr. Barthel. He has an appointment as fellow under the International Education Board.

DR. GEORGE FRANKLIN BABBITT, for twenty years health commissioner of Boston and a member of the staff of *The Boston Herald*, died on September 5, aged seventy-eight years.

AN Associated Press dispatch, dated September 8, reports that Dr. Aldo C. Massaglia, professor of bacteriology and pathology at the University of Mississippi, died *en route* to America from Italy, where he had been visiting his father.

DR. H. B. GUPPY, known for his extensive study of coral reefs in the Solomon and Fiji Islands and for his studies of plant distribution, died last April at Fort de France, Martinique, on his return voyage from a visit to Tahiti.

DR. HERBERT WILLIAM PAGE, the well-known British surgeon, has died in London at the age of eighty-one years.

THE death is announced of Dr. Richard Pohle, professor of geography in the Technical Institute at Braunschweig.

THE annual conference of the directors of sixteen European zoological gardens met at Vienna from August 30 to September 2. The object of the gatherings is the exchange of experiences since the last congress in various realms, such as the better housing of animals in the various seasons, the fight against rats and other plagues of zoological gardens, the exchange of animals and the like.

SIR FREDERICK WALKER MOTT, honorary director of the Research Board on Mental Diseases for the City and University of Birmingham, has left the residue of his estate, subject to certain trusts, failing which, with remainder to the University of London for the endowment or partial endowment of a professorship of psychological medicine "at my Alma Mater," the Medical School of University College Hospital, stating that he did not wish the professorship to be founded until there should be sufficient accommodation for the study and treatment of early cases of mental disorder either by wards in University College Hospital or in an affiliated mental hospital.

LECTURES to be given during October in the lecture

hall of the museum building of the New York Botanical Gardens are as follows:

- October 2.—"The Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, England," Dr. Arthur W. Hill.  
 " 9.—"Autumn Colors," Dr. A. B. Stout.  
 " 16.—"Autumn Flowers," Dr. G. Clyde Fisher.  
 " 23.—"Difficulties in Propagation," Dr. William Crocker.  
 " 30.—"Botanizing in Trinidad," Dr. Fred J. Seaver.

*Eugenical News* states that Dr. Jon Alfred Mj  en, of Winderen, Oslo, Norway, has submitted a bill to the Norwegian government and the Storting, at the request of the minister of social affairs, relating to the biological control of immigration. It appears that despite the fact that Norway is not capable of supporting a large population and is pronouncedly an emigration land, still, with the increasing of the difficulties of migrating to North America, many immigrants from Southeastern Europe are coming to Norway. Certain provisions of the bill include the notification of aliens to the police; the giving of permits to aliens for a definite period, not to exceed one year; provision for renewal of permit for an additional period; the elimination of the mentally, emotionally or physically inept; provision for a minimum number of aliens who are given permission to reside in the country for an indefinite period.

To give a better presentation of the topography of the 40,000-acre Harriman State Park, the United States Geological Survey has undertaken the complete revision of its maps covering the Highlands of the Hudson and part of the Ramapo Mountains. The new maps, which will be of great value to the thousands of campers and hikers who use this region and are at present handicapped by the inaccurate and antiquated maps now in use, will be drawn on a scale of 1,000 feet to the inch, five times larger than the old ones. The contour lines, or circles indicating altitude, will be inserted at each ten-foot rise instead of at twenty feet, as formerly. The work, which also includes the mapping of new trails, artificial lakes, camps, etc., is under the general direction of Dr. George Otis Smith, director of the survey. He is being assisted by Colonel Glenn S. Smith, acting chief topographic engineer, and Major W. A. Welch, general manager and chief engineer of the Harriman Park. The field work, under the direction of Albert Pike, topographical engineer of the middle Atlantic section, is being carried on by fourteen men in seven field parties, who will be engaged up to winter.

To stop the loose sand around the totem poles at Kitwanga, British Columbia, from blowing in the mouths and eyes of tourists and from getting in their

shoes, Mr. Harlan I. Smith is having desert shrubs set out and is selecting other shrubs to be set in between these. Then clover and grass will be planted, which being sheltered can grow where the tourists pass. This clover and grass will be feed for the Indians' cattle and they will crop it close, thus saving the expense of a lawn-mower. The trees along the path, the shrubs and wild flowers to be scattered among them will make the Kitwanga Garden of Native Plants of great interest to tourists. There are now many individual specimens of over twenty-four species on the tourists path and part of these are already labeled. Mr. Smith would be glad to receive labels or books from which labels may be cut to weatherproof, mount and frame for use until labels embodying the native Indian uses may be printed. Such names with description as are found in Reed's Wild Flowers serve fairly well, and as weatherproofed by Mr. Smith will last through rain and snow for from two to five years.

A DAM costing \$100,000 is being constructed by the Engineering Foundation Committee on Arch Dams. The dam is later to be destroyed in studying various questions of dam construction. Dr. Charles David Marx, professor emeritus of civil engineering at Leland Stanford Junior University, has been elected chairman of the committee to carry on the work. The dam is being built on Stevenson Creek, a tributary of the San Joaquin River, about sixty miles east of Fresno, Cal. Engineers in many countries are cooperating, W. A. Slater, of the U. S. Bureau of Standards, has taken charge of tests at the dam. Many small models will be built and tested as the work on the large dam proceeds.

### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY is the beneficiary in the will of Mrs. Annie C. Kane of two gifts of \$500,000, one to be devoted to religious instruction, the other unconditional, to be used for whatever purpose the trustees may see fit. Mrs. Kane also left \$1,000,000 to the New York City Home for Incurables on condition that part be used for a building where incurable cases of cancer shall be treated.

A BEQUEST amounting to nearly £100,000, which is to be divided between the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth and the National Library of Wales, is made in the will of the late Sir John Williams, of Blaenllynant, Aberystwyth. In addition, gifts of £1,550 and of pictures, books and MSS. are made to the latter of these institutions.

DR. F. W. OWENS, for nineteen years a member of the faculty of Cornell University, has accepted an in-

itation to become head of the department of mathematics in the School of Liberal Arts at the Pennsylvania State College. He will begin his work with the opening of college this month, succeeding the late Professor Joseph Moody Willard, who died in 1923.

ALFRED W. GAUGER, Ph.D. (Princeton), has been appointed to take charge of the work of the Engineering and Mining Experiment Station of the University of North Dakota.

DR. E. L. REED has resigned his position as professor of biology at John Tarleton Agricultural College at Stephenville, Texas, to accept a professorship of botany at the Texas Technological College at Lubbock.

FELLOWS in medicine of the National Research Council have accepted positions as follows: David L. Drabkin, M.D., for two years fellow in biochemistry at Yale University, has been appointed to an instructorship in the department of biochemistry in the University of Pennsylvania, and C. H. Thienes, M.D., for one year a fellow at Stanford University Medical School, is now assistant professor of pharmacology in the University of Oregon Medical School.

DR. W. ROBINSON, senior lecturer in the department of cryptogamic botany in the University of Manchester, has been appointed to the chair in botany in University College, Aberystwyth, in succession to Professor Lloyd Williams, who retires under the age limit in September.

### DISCUSSION

#### RADIATING POTENTIALS OF THE BAND SYSTEMS OF CARBON MONOXIDE

WHEREAS an atom can absorb energy only by a change in the configuration of its electrons, a molecule can absorb energy by changes in the configuration of the nuclei of its constituent atoms and by changes in its speed of rotation as well as by changes in the arrangement of its electrons. When a molecule absorbs energy by one or more of these processes, it is said to be in an excited state. Transitions between its possible states give rise to the absorption or emission of its spectrum. Coupled with each electronic transition there may be several vibrational (nuclear) transitions, and coupled with each vibrational transition there may be a number of rotational transitions. On account of these coupled transitions molecular spectra are characterized by associated band groups constituting band systems.

The bands of a system are all due to the same electronic transition, and so an entire system in molecular spectra replaces a single line in atomic spectra. The energy, in equivalent volts, necessary to change a molecule from its normal state to one of its excited