

tom (London), Rendle (London), Robinson (Cambridge, Mass.), Schinz (Zürich), Shear (Washington), Sprague (Kew), Trotter (Florence), Valetton (Leyden).

This committee will consider proposals for amending the International Rules of Nomenclature and will make recommendations to the next international congress to be held in London in 1930. At an early date the chairman of the interim committee, Dr. Briquet, will issue a circular containing directions for preparing proposals which are to be submitted to the committee.

The official program of the congress stated that "the Congress does not provide an occasion for legislation on regulatory matters." Hence no action was taken on the proposals discussed, but the way is now open for presenting these and other matters to the London Congress through the new interim committee.

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THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS COMMITTEE AND INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL INTELLECTUAL COOPERATION

AMONG the several continuing special commissions and committees of the League of Nations the International Committee and Institute of Intellectual Cooperation have a particular interest for scientific workers.

The special function of the committee and institute is the promotion of international undertakings in the various fields of scholarship. They interest themselves in university conditions and relations; in the international exchange of professors and students, the international equivalence of diplomas, the development of an international association of universities and of international associations of students; in the international relations of libraries, bibliographic services and museums. They are interested in the proprietary rights in his work of the author, artist and scientific discoverer. They hope to be able to find means of giving some special support to scholarly undertakings in countries facing particular difficulties in this regard. They have stimulated the establishment of thirty national committees, in as many countries, to maintain helpful relations with the central international committee, and to encourage the participation of these countries in international intellectual activities.

With the prestige of the League of Nations behind them the committee and institute can take up matters of scholarly and general intellectual interest directly

with governments, and can hope to obtain special governmental support for the holding of international congresses and reunions of international groups of experts for the study of special problems of intellectual life common to many nations.

The membership of the League of Nations Committee includes such widely known names as those of Mme. Curie, Einstein, Gilbert Murray and R. A. Millikan. The present president of the committee is Professor Lorentz, of Leiden, who succeeds Henri Bergson, forced by ill health to resign both the presidency and his membership in the committee. The fourteen members of the committee represent fourteen countries, and meetings of the whole committee and of the four or five continuing sub-committees so far organized are held at least annually.

But no matter how capable, distinguished and devoted the members of a committee with such interests and aims as this one has, there is necessary, for definite achievement, some sort of a continuously working agency competently organized and equipped to carry forward to realization the recommendations outlined by the committee. This agency the League of Nations Committee now has in the International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation, organized in January of this year and now actively at work.

The institute has a director and vice-director, ten chiefs and assistant chiefs of sections, all serving full time, and, in addition, a number of occasional special investigators serving for limited periods. There are sections of university relations, scientific, literary and artistic relations, a legal section and a section of information. The institute hopes, especially, to act as a general clearing house for information concerning intellectual activities all over the world. Although the institute is situated in Paris, which offers more and larger library and informational advantages than Geneva, and is so far chiefly supported financially by the generosity of France—Poland and Czecho-Slovakia have made it small appropriations—it is thoroughly international in spirit and make-up and is entirely under the control of the League of Nations Committee.

The annual summer meeting of the committee and its sub-committees has just been held in Geneva. The director, vice-director of the institute and two or three of its section chiefs were in attendance. Two public sessions of the full committee were held, and at most of the private sessions of the committee and sub-committees, which extended through a fortnight, special experts in various fields of the committee's interests were in attendance by invitation.

In the absence of Professor Millikan, the present writer acted as American representative, as was also the case last summer. From the experience of these

two meetings, and from a personal knowledge of the work now under way by the institute and definitely planned for the immediate future, I am convinced that the committee and institute are playing a useful rôle in the advancement of international intellectual cooperation and hence of internationalism in general. This rôle can be enlarged as time goes on, especially if a larger financial support for the institute can be found.

VERNON KELLOGG

GENEVA, SEPTEMBER 3

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE BRITISH INSTITUTION OF FUEL TECHNOLOGY

At a meeting last spring at the Institution of Civil Engineers it was resolved to found an Institution of Fuel Technology. The work of preparing a constitution was left to an organizing committee. Sir William Larke presided recently over a second meeting to receive the report of the work of the committee.

According to the report in the London *Times* the chairman read a letter from Sir Alfred Mond, who has accepted the office of president, in which, after expressing regret that he was unable to attend, he said: "The work which the institution has set out to do is of the utmost importance to industry, and indeed to the whole commonwealth. Under the conditions in which the country has been existing during the last few months public interest has become more and more concentrated on the problems which the institution has been formed to solve."

A suggestion had been made that the new institution and the Institution of Fuel Economy Engineers should, if possible, combine. The Institution of Fuel Economy Engineers, however, stipulated that the basis of membership should be some technical or professional qualification. So that membership of the new institution should confer a status, it was requested that there should be provided at least one class of definitely qualified members.

Speaking for the organizing committee the chairman stated that: "It could not be too strongly emphasized that the objects of the institution were to promote, foster and develop the general advancement of the various branches of fuel technology as an end in itself. To do that it was considered desirable to enlist the support of all those having any interest in fuel, and not to limit membership by any restrictions as to technical or professional qualifications, but to maintain the prestige and standard of the institution by the character and nature of the papers presented under its auspices and by the election of a strong council representative of all interests. The constitution had been so designed as to secure facilities for

cooperation with all existing institutions having fuel interests. It had been proved conclusively that there was need for an institution which would bring all sections of workers in fuel and fuel problems into a closer relationship."

The following were elected to the offices specified:

President.—Sir Alfred Mond.

Vice-presidents.—Lord Aberconway, Professor Harold Baily Dixon, Sir Robert Abbott Hadfield, Lord Weir and Mr. D. Milne Watson.

Council.—Mr. R. A. Burrows, Sir Philip Dawson, Mr. F. A. Freeth, Sir W. J. Larke, Mr. Rudolph Lessing, Mr. M. Mannaberg, Sir Edward Manville, M.P., Mr. S. McEwen, Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, Sir Richard Redmayne, Admiral Sir Edmund Slade, Mr. Wallace Thorneycroft, Mr. M. W. Travers, Professor R. V. Wheeler, Mr. W. A. Woodeson, Mr. G. R. Thursfield, Mr. T. Hardie, Mr. A. H. Middleton and Mr. W. M. Selvey.

Honorable Treasurer.—Sir William B. Peat.

Honorable Secretary.—Mr. Edgar C. Evans, Caxton House (East), Tothill-street, S.W.

It was left to the council to fix a date for the autumn or winter meeting at which, it was stated, papers of considerable importance would be read.

A PAN-PACIFIC EXPOSITION

JAPAN is to have a Pan-Pacific Exposition in 1929. On March 25 Mayor Tasaka together with Mr. Beppu, expert in the organization and management of exhibitions, and Mr. Sangu, Vice-Mayor, visited Governor Yamawaki and laid before him the plans for the Pan-Pacific Exposition to be held in Nagoya during the spring and summer of 1929. The exposition will be held under the united auspices of the prefecture and the City of Nagoya. An organization will be formed shortly to handle the business connected with the exposition.

The final plan calls for an expenditure of ¥10,600,000, of which ¥3,000,000 will be contributed by the city and the province. In magnitude the proposed exposition will more than double the Peace Exposition held in Tokyo in 1921. Halls of Industry, Art, Agriculture, Stock, Forestry, Maritime Products, Minerals, Machinery, Electrical Apparatus, Communications, Social Service and Social Culture will be erected. The buildings, including the projected City Hall which will be used for the offices of the exposition, will cover nearly 25 acres.

Between six and seven acres of space will be allotted to foreign exhibits from the shores of the Pacific, and the exhibits of home products will more than double those of the present Osaka Exhibition. About 240 acres will be set aside for the exposition grounds, which will be located in four different districts. Several of the buildings are to be permanent structures and the remainder are to be built in such a