

classification and in the problems of distribution, speciation and phylogeny is evident, for it is clear that the chromosome complex is the vital mechanism of evolution, and there are welcome signs at this meeting that the physiologists and biochemists are coming to our aid in solving the pressing problem of the modes of action of the chromosomes in development.

C. C. HURST

TRINITY COLLEGE,  
CAMBRIDGE, ENGLAND

### INTERNATIONAL CRITICAL TABLES

ONE of the major projects of the National Research Council has been the preparation and publication of International Critical Tables of Numerical Data in Physics, Chemistry and Technology, undertaken at the request of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry and the International Research Council. The work of critical compilation began in 1922, and the first of the projected five large volumes was published last year. The responsibility for the editorial work has rested on Dr. E. W. Washburn, editor-in-chief; Dr. Clarence J. West, associate editor for chemistry; Dr. N. Ernest Dorsey, associate editor for physics; and Dr. F. R. Bichowsky and Dr. Alfons Klemenc, assistant editors. These responsible editors were assisted by an advisory editorial board composed of seven eminent chemists and physicists, and by ten corresponding editors and about 300 cooperating experts. The data used are derived from material in eighteen languages.

Nearly \$200,000 has been expended on the compilation. This money has come as gifts from 244 firms and individuals and two major foundations (Carnegie Corporation and International Education Board). The gifts from these foundations, amounting to \$70,000, were made for the special purpose of enabling the published tables to be sold at a price not prohibitive to individual buyers. Publication was undertaken by the McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., the well-known publishers of scientific books, under a special arrangement regarding selling price.

The regular price for a set of five volumes was fixed at \$60, but a prepublication price of \$35 a set was made to all subscribers ordering sets before the actual publication of Volume I.

The more optimistic among us estimated that we should have prepublication subscribers to the number of 1,000 to 1,500. The actual result is that 6,638 sets have been ordered at the pre-publication price of \$35, and several hundred sets at the post-publication price of \$60 a set. The distribution of these orders presents some interesting features.

Of the total of 6,638 sets ordered in advance of publication, 4,694 sets were ordered by individuals, 531 by libraries, 450 by educational institutions and 973 by industrial concerns.

As regards the geographical distribution of the orders a gratifying wideness in this distribution is apparent on going over the lists. The United States has ordered 4,867 sets, and foreign countries 1,771 sets. Fifty-three countries and colonies are represented in the foreign list with Great Britain and Ireland leading with 379 sets ordered, Germany next with 224 and Japan third with 146. France has ordered but 58 sets which are not as many as those ordered from Holland (91), Sweden (72) and Italy (67). Little Belgium has ordered 50 sets. Darkest Russia has ordered 27 sets, and benighted China 43 sets.

The total list of foreign countries, together with the figures of sets ordered follows: Africa, 20; Argentina, 19; Australia, 20; Austria, 37; Belgium, 50; Brazil, 5; Canada, 151; Ceylon, 1; Chile, 9; China, 43; Colombia, 2; Cuba, 10; Czechoslovakia, 37; Denmark, 31; Dutch East Indies, 17; Egypt, 1; Estonia, 4; Finland, 11; France, 58; Germany, 224; Guatemala, 1; Great Britain and Ireland, 379; Haiti, 1; Hawaii, 9; Holland, 91; Hungary, 9; Iceland, 1; India, 29; Italy, 67; Japan, 146; Jugoslavia, 4; Latvia, 3; Luxembourg, 1; Mexico, 17; New Zealand, 2; Norway, 38; Palestine, 2; Peru, 7; Philippines, 10; Poland, 12; Porto Rico, 7; Portugal, 1; Rumania, 8; Samoa, 1; Siam, 2; Soviet Russia, 27; Spain, 18; Straits Settlements, 3; Sweden, 72; Switzerland, 49; Syria, 2; Tasmania, 1; Trinidad, 1.

VERNON KELLOGG

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

### SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

#### EXCURSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOIL SCIENCE CONGRESS

THE national committee, which is planning for the work of the International Soil Science Congress, which is to meet in Washington on June 13, is arranging for an excursion through the United States to follow immediately after the close of the meeting on June 22.

The itinerary is now being worked out. It is planned to have the excursion go south from Washington to central North Carolina, thence across the mountains into Tennessee, southeast to Georgia, thence to Alabama and through Tennessee to southeastern Missouri, across that state to Kansas, thence either through Colorado, Utah and Nevada to California, or through Arizona and New Mexico to California, then north through Oregon and Washington to British Columbia,