

of the British Museum can provide for the purpose out of the Parliamentary grant, but they hope that many of those interested in East Africa and in geological research may lend their aid by contributing to the special fund.

#### AN INTERNATIONAL BASIS FOR ELECTRICAL UNITS

By amendment to the International Convention on Weights and Measures it has been provided that electrical units and standards shall be dealt with through the organizations which have jurisdiction over the fundamental units of measurement. These organizations are the international general conference, the international committee and the International Bureau of Weights and Measures.

The seventh General Conference on Weights and Measures, held in 1927, approved the formation of a committee on electricity to advise the permanent International Committee on Weights and Measures on questions relating to electrical standards and systems of measurement. This advisory committee was limited to ten members, including a representative appointed by each of the national laboratories designated by the international committee and additional specialists named individually by that committee. It was provided that a member of the international committee should be chairman of the advisory committee and that a report should be rendered by it not later than March 1, 1929.

The national laboratories designated are the National Physical Laboratory of Great Britain, the Laboratoire Central d'Electricité at Paris, the Physikalisch-Technische Reichsanstalt of Germany, the Central Chamber of Weights and Measures of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics (Russia), the Electrotechnical Laboratory of the Department of Communications of Japan and the National Bureau of Standards of the United States. Of the four additional members only two appointments have been announced. These are M. Chas.-Éd. Guillaume, director of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures, and Professor L. Lombardi, of Rome, Italy.

An American advisory committee has been formed to assist the Bureau of Standards in formulating proposals representing a consensus of the opinions held in this country. The organizations invited to take part and the representatives named as members of this committee are as follows:

National Academy of Sciences—Professor A. E. Kennelly.

American Institute of Electrical Engineers—Professor A. E. Kennelly.

American Physical Society—Professor Henry Crew.

National Electric Light Association—Dr. Clayton H. Sharp (alternate, A. B. Morgan).

Association of Edison Illuminating Companies—Dr. Clayton H. Sharp.

National Electrical Manufacturers Association—W. J. Canada.

American Telephone and Telegraph Co.—A. B. Clark.

The American advisory committee met at the Bureau of Standards on June 16, 1928, together with a number of members of the staff of the bureau. After due consideration of the information available regarding the present status of electrical measurements, the committee unanimously adopted the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That, in the opinion of this committee, in view of improvements which are being made in absolute measurements, electrical standards should in future be based upon the absolute system of units.

2. *Resolved*, That, in the opinion of this committee, the functions which it is desirable to have the International Bureau of Weights and Measures undertake in connection with the electrical units are as follows: (1) A central secretariat to arrange for systematic exchange of standards and compilation of results of intercomparisons thus made among the national laboratories. (2) A laboratory to which concrete standards representing the results obtained in the different countries may be brought for precise comparisons. (3) A repository for international reference and working standards with the necessary equipment so that other standards may be compared with these standards on request.

Resolutions of similar purport have been under consideration by committees of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers for some months, and were finally approved by the board of directors during the Denver meeting, June 25 to 29, 1928.

#### MEETING OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

THE American Public Health Association will hold its fifty-seventh annual meeting at Chicago, Ill., from October 15 to 19, with headquarters at Hotel Stevens. Two other national health organizations, the American Child Health Association and the American Social Hygiene Association, will meet jointly with the American Public Health Association. The first general session will be called Monday evening, when Dr. Herman N. Bundesen, president of the American Public Health Association, will give the presidential address, and either the president of the American Child Health Association or his representative will also speak at this opening meeting. The second general session, scheduled for Wednesday evening, will be devoted to a discussion of the following topics: Our organizations for the care of the sick; which public

health procedures pay, and how to use effectively civic groups in promoting health programs.

Sanitarians and persons interested in preventive medicine will this year have unusual opportunities to hear reports and discussions of the latest findings in their particular field, for the sessions of the week have been increased over the number of previous years.

There will be a total of 42 sessions; 31 of these will be meetings of sections of the association including health officers, industrial hygiene, food, drugs and nutrition, laboratory, public health engineering, child hygiene, vital statistics, public health education and public health nursing.

Special sessions have been arranged for the discussion of cancer, training for the public health professions, dairy products and epidemiology. The joint sessions will bring together these sections: health officers, public health nursing, child hygiene; laboratory and food, drugs and nutrition; laboratory and public health engineering; child hygiene, public health education and the health education division of the American Child Health Association. The health officers will devote one session to rural health work.

A symposium on pre-school health supervision procedures will be treated from the angle of the small town and rural areas, the small city and a limited area of a large city. Infant mortality studies, and maternal mortality, school medical and nursing service, medical service in continuation schools, sickness and absence records in the school health program and objectives of dental health education will be discussed in the child hygiene section meetings with the American Child Health Association.

The public health engineering section has planned symposia on sterilization of milk utensils, shellfish sanitation, methods of financing water supply and sewerage improvements. Atmospheric pollution by smoke and odors, useless noises and their relation to public health, and schoolroom ventilation as it is related to absenteeism will be discussed by this group. A practical problem to be presented at a session of the engineers will be carbon monoxide pollution of air in Chicago.

#### THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ENTOMOLOGY

As this is written, July 23, the plans for the congress are in practically their final form, while the program is nearly complete and will go to the printer in a few days.

The following countries are sending delegates: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Den-

mark, Egypt, Great Britain, Finland, France, Germany, Hawaii, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Porto Rico, Roumania, Scotland, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, United Soviet States of Russia, Norway, Guatemala, Greece, United States.

The congress opens on Monday morning, August 13, at 9 A. M. with a brief address of welcome by Dean A. R. Mann, followed by the opening address of the president, Dr. L. O. Howard, after which the congress will proceed at once with the reading of the following papers during the general Monday morning session:

"Le peuplement de l'Amérique du nord par les Trechinae." Dr. RENE JEANNEL, Vivarium, Museum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, France.

"Problems of Distribution and Variation of North American Fleas." Dr. KARL JORDAN, Zoological Museum, Tring (Herts), England.

"Development of Entomological Science in Egypt." Dr. HASSAN C. EFFLATOUN BEY, Plant Protection Section, Giza, Egypt.

Report by Dr. KARL JORDAN, secretary of the executive committee.

#### SECOND GENERAL SESSION

Tuesday, 9 A. M., August 14, 1928.

"Klima und Seuchen von Standpunkt des Entomologen." Dr. E. MARTINI, Institut für Schiffs- und Tropenkrankheiten, Hamburg, Germany.

"On the Splitting Influence of the Increase of Entomologists' Knowledge and on the Enigma of Species." Dr. WALTHER HORN, Deutsches Entomologisches Institut, Berlin-Dahlem, Deutschland.

"The Relation of Taxonomy to Other Branches." Professor F. SILVESTRI, R. Instituto superiore agrario, Portici, Napoli, Italia.

"A Neotropical Myremecophyte (*Cordia alliodora*) and its Tenants." Professor WM. M. WHEELER, Bussey Institution, Harvard University, Forest Hills, Massachusetts.

#### THIRD GENERAL SESSION

Thursday, 9 A. M., August 16, 1928.

"The Mutual Relationship between Museums and Experts." Dr. W. J. HOLLAND, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

"Freshwater Living Hymenopterous Parasites in Russia." Professor M. N. RIMSKY-KORSAKOV, University, Leningrad, Russia.

"Fauna of the Soil in Swedish Forests." I. TRÄGÅRDH, Experimentalfältet, Sweden.

"Insect Inhabitants of the Upper Air." Dr. E. P. FELT, Entomologist, Bartlett Research Laboratories, Stamford, Conn.

"Restrictions Enforced by the United States on Entry of Foreign Plants and Plant Products for the Pur-