

desirable that the British Association should urge his Majesty's Government to stimulate the employment by local authorities of the powers already conferred upon them by Parliament for the preservation of scenic amenity in town and country. The motion will be seconded by Mr. T. Sheppard, representing the Museums Association, and Miss R. M. Fleming, of the Cardiganshire Antiquarian Society, who will deal especially with the concern of Wales in this matter. Lord Crawford and Balcarres, chairman of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England, will speak in support of the resolution.

The second and concluding session of the Conference of Corresponding Societies, to be held on Tuesday, September 11, will be devoted to the scenery of the English Lake District and its preservation. The subject has been chosen for treatment on this occasion because the Lake District is the most significant scenic region in Great Britain, not only on account of its unusual combination of fine natural features and of certain advantages for rambling which result from the social and economic conditions of the district, but also because it is inseparably connected with the prophetic inspiration of one whose interpretation of nature is of unique importance to readers of English poetry.

Dr. Hugh Mill, vice-president of the Royal Geographical Society, will describe the geography of this well-defined scenic region. The next speaker will deal with "Wordsworth's Interpretation of Nature," after which Mr. Ewart James, of St. Bees, Cumberland, will give a detailed account of the elaborate scheme of regional planning for the preservation of scenic amenity in the Lake District and its environs which is now under the consideration of numerous local bodies.

### RESEARCH ON AIR NAVIGATION

DR. GEORGE WILLIAM LEWIS, director of aeronautical research under the National Advisory Council, in proposing the formation of the subcommittee on problems of air navigation, as announced in last week's issue of *SCIENCE*, presented the following outline for its work:

1. It has been brought to my attention that there is need at the present time for the coordination of scientific research being conducted on the problems of instruments for air navigation, aerial communications and meteorological problems of air navigation, especially landing in fog.

2. The importance of coordinating these activities has been called to my attention particularly by representatives of the Daniel Guggenheim Fund for the Promotion of Aeronautics and the American Telephone and Telegraph Company. To provide aids to air navigation is a function of the Department of Commerce.

The coordination of scientific research for the providing of such aids is considered to be properly a function of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, and can be so interpreted from the act establishing the committee, which states it shall be the duty of the committee "to supervise and direct the scientific study of the problems of flight, with a view to their practical solution, and to determine the problems which should be experimentally attacked, and to discuss their solution and their application to practical questions."

3. Commander Hunsaker, of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, has advised me that his company is conducting research on aerial communications, especially in connection with the navigation of aircraft and the communication of weather reports. He has found that the researches being conducted along lines in which he is particularly interested are rather wide-spread and varied, and that there is no organization at present that is coordinating this work in a manner similar to the functions of the Aerodynamics Committee and other subcommittees in other fields of aeronautical activity. Among the organizations at present conducting research along the lines of aerial communications are the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, the Bureau of Standards, the War Department, the Navy Department and the Radio Corporation of America.

4. The Guggenheim Fund organized, under the direction of Admiral H. I. Cone, a committee to study the problem of fog landing. The committee included in its membership representatives of the various government organizations concerned with the problem, the purpose being to coordinate the efforts of the various investigators along this line with a view to the making of definite recommendations as to what the Guggenheim Fund could do to aid in the solution of this particular problem.

5. Admiral Cone also brought to my attention the importance of coordinating the work of government organizations and manufacturers in fundamental investigations leading to the development of better and more accurate aerial navigation instruments.

6. There is a feeling on the part of every one connected with aeronautics, both in the government services and in outside organizations, including the manufacturers, that the committee has discharged its function of coordinating fundamental research in a very praiseworthy manner with reference to aerodynamics, power plants and materials for aircraft.

The time has now come when the problems of air navigation, particularly meteorological problems, aerial communications and navigational instruments, are of the utmost importance, and the coordination of fundamental research in connection with these projects is properly a function of the National Advisory Committee. It is, therefore, recommended that a Subcommittee on the Problems of Air Navigation be organized, to include in its membership representatives of those agencies particularly interested in these problems, both in the government services and outside the government.