SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL MAP OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

THE *Geographical Journal* reports that at the International Geographical Congress at Cambridge last year the proposal, made in a paper read by Mr. O. G. S. Crawford, was adopted that a map should be published of the Roman Empire, based on the International 1/M map of the world. A special commission was appointed, with Brigadier Jack, director-general of the Ordnance Survey, as president, and Mr. O. G. S. Crawford as secretary. This commission held its first meeting in Florence on April 30 and May 1 this year. Representatives of Italy, Spain and Great Britain were present and the general character of the map was decided upon. A report of the conclusions reached has just been published. The first edition of the Ordnance Survey Map of Roman Britain was adopted as a general model. The area to be covered was fixed as that of the Roman Empire at the time of its greatest extent, the time ranging from the first appearance of the Romans in each region down to the fall of the Western Empire. In compiling the map the sheet of the 1/M map is to form the unit in each case, and the commission hopes to arrange for the printing and publication of each sheet by the government responsible for the corresponding 1/M sheet. A list of the 1/M sheets which will make up the map, with the name of the country whose government is responsible for their publication, is given in the report, as well as an index map.

The commission recognizes that many difficulties will arise in selecting the features to be shown on the map, but points out that it is of first importance to keep the map as clear and simple as possible. Further, the aim of the map is historical and not archeological—to show the distribution and character of population, the names of towns and natural features and the economic and social conditions of the period. Only Roman remains will be shown, and of cities only those inhabited during the Roman period, as defined above, or during some portion of it. The inclusion or omission of any site, however, will have to be decided on individual merits and not by any hard-and-fast rules. In addition to the names of inhabited sites, the commission states that wherever possible the names of topographical features should also be shown. The ancient name will be engraved in characters based on those used on Trajan's column, and the modern name in italics beneath.

The commission hopes to have several sheets published before the next meeting of the International Geographical Union at Paris in 1931. Sheet North K 33, on which Rome appears, is already in preparation, and will be printed with other Italian sheets by General Vacchelli, director of the Istituto Geografico Militare at Florence, on behalf of the Italian government.

AEROLOGICAL RESULTS OF THE GREENLAND EXPEDITIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

THE aerological observatory of the University of Michigan, located at Mount Evans in southwest Greenland (Lat. 66° 55′ N. Long. 50° 50′ W.), was closed on the twenty-ninth of July, 1929, after being in continuous operation for a period of two years. The several buildings and nearly all the meteorological and wireless installation have been left intact with a view to a possible reopening later. The winter staff of three men bringing the observational data for the last thirteen months reached Copenhagen on August 19, and the aerological and meteorological data for the entire two years are now at Ann Arbor being reduced for early publication.

To the records from Mount Evans, which include one or more pilot balloon ascents for each clear day, are to be added ninety-four ascents which were carried out during the summer of 1926 at the provisional station of that year on the Maligiakfjord located about fifty kilometers east of Holstensborg and about midway between Mount Evans and the coast. The balloon runs carried out at Mount Evans during the first eleven months numbered 337 and these were followed to an average altitude of about 7,000 meters. For the last thirteen months they numbered 439, making 776 in all. Two exceptional runs were followed to altitudes of 27,000 and 29,000 meters, respectively.

The aerological work of 1926 was in charge of S. P. Fergusson, that at Mount Evans between July 21, 1927, and May 28, 1928, in charge of Clarence R. Kallquist (each man on leave at the time from the U. S. Weather Bureau), that from May 28 to July 10, 1928, in charge of William S. Carlson, and that from July 10, 1928, to July 21, 1929, in charge of Leonard R. Schneider.

S. P. Fergusson, who has acted throughout in an advisory capacity, has been made editor of the aerological and meteorological data and is now on leave directing the work at Ann Arbor. Dr. C. F. Marvin, chief of the U. S. Weather Bureau, has from the beginning cooperated in the loan of meteorological equipment and has now generously granted to Mr. Fergusson the leave to undertake this work.

A comparative study of weather records has been undertaken on the basis of a secondary station established and maintained by the expedition since the summer of 1927 at Holstensborg in the same latitude