

ing the tablet were two sons of Sir Joseph Hooker (neither of whom went into scientific work), and the present director and assistant director of Kew.

The inscription on the tablet reads as follows:

This tablet records the association with Halesworth of Sir William Hooker and of his son, Sir Joseph, who in succession became the directors of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Sir William Hooker lived in Halesworth from 1809 to 1820, and here Sir Joseph was born in 1817. Erected, 1930.

Those attending the exercises visited the house and room where Sir Joseph was born.

C. STUART GAGER

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF EXPERIMENTAL PHONETICS

THE first Congress of the International Society of Experimental Phonetics was held at Bonn from June 10 to 15, 1930. Over 100 people attended. Addresses and demonstrations referring to all parts of the science of speech were presented.

Dr. Gutzman (Berlin) gave a striking demonstration of a Röntgen speech film in which the movements of the larynx, hyoid bone and tongue appeared with great clearness. This will shortly be combined with a speaking film so that the movements of the organs can be seen and the speech be heard at the same time. The possibilities of this method for the investigations of speech from a linguistic point of view can not be overestimated. It is also adapted to purposes of instruction, for example, of the deaf.

W. Lenk (Vienna) demonstrated a speech film apparatus suitable for laboratory use in scientific investigations. The speech may be recorded not only in the constructed form necessary for reproduction but with lengthened waves adapted to measurement. Dr. Moses (Cologne) showed that speech records vary according to the character of the person. Professor Scripture (Vienna) gave a presentation of the puff theory of the vowels. F. Janvrin (London) presented the results of an experimental analysis of a record of verse spoken by John Galsworthy himself.

Professor Isserlin (Munich) discussed aphasia; Dr. Berger (Münster) presented phonetic investigations of the Lombard Test; Dr. Kaiser (Amsterdam) showed registrations of pathologically altered voices. Dr. Hegedüs (Gödöllő) showed curves from experimental investigations on the melody of Hungary. Dr. Peters (Tartu) presented an analogous result from Esthonia.

In a paper on speech atoms and speech molecules Professor Scripture demonstrated that speech consists of a series of minute portions which for the purpose in hand can be treated as constant; these he termed "speech atoms." The combination of speech atoms

into larger units such as words, sentences and so on he termed "speech molecules," according to the definition that a speech molecule is any portion of speech spoken as a unit. He showed that speech atoms influence one another when combined into molecules; the forces that act were termed "intramolecular forces." The fact that a speech atom in the latter part of a molecule can influence atoms that preceded it was considered to be a proof that each molecule was present as a whole at some time previously in the unconscious mind.

The exhibition included various oscillographs, film apparatus, graphic registration apparatus, harmonic analyzers and numerous other devices. An account of the proceedings will be published as a separate volume.

At a meeting of the council, the secretarial bureau was definitely located at 73 Welbeck Street, London, W.1, and arrangements were made to send the following publications free of charge to the members: *Zeitschrift für Experimentalphonetik*, *Bulletin of the International Society of Experimental Phonetics*, *Bulletin de la Société Internationale de Phonétique Expérimentale* and *Sprachneurologische Mitteilungen*. The membership fee was fixed at 10 shillings per annum.

Professor Hugo Pipping (Helsingfors) has been made an honorary member of the society.

THE INTERNATIONAL HORTICULTURAL CONGRESS

At the last session of the International Horticultural Congress, on August 15, Dr. M. J. Sirks, honorable secretary, presented the report of the committee on nomenclature, whose resolutions included the following:

A list of names valid at the time it is made should be drawn up and should be good for, say, six years. It is imperative that this list should follow strictly the rules of botanical nomenclature so far as species and botanical varieties are concerned, and that the names of plants generally accepted as conformable to the rules at the time of the making of the list should alone be used. All personal preferences and individual usage must be sunk if not in conformity with these rules. This list should be used universally in catalogues, horticultural literature, and gardens for a fixed period. An international committee should be appointed to revise this list in the light of botanical research at intervals of six years. Such alterations as are admitted at these revisions should be shown thereafter in catalogues for the next period with the superseded name as synonym.

It was added that so far as possible names of horticultural varieties should consist of a single word; the employment of not more than three words is per-