

Organization at Locarno, Switzerland, and also the fourth general conference at Geneva, Switzerland, of the advisory and technical committee on communication and transit of the League of Nations, involving consideration and discussion of the projected matter of the reform of the calendar.

According to an account in the *Official Record* the matter of first importance in connection with the meeting at Locarno was the fact that the so-called executive council, consisting of representatives of five nations, one of these representatives being the president of the International Meteorological Organization, held its first meeting after it was created at the conference of directors at Copenhagen in 1929. This was, therefore, its organization meeting. In addition to deciding upon necessary rules and regulations for accomplishing the work of the council, decisions were reached in regard to the budget and funds for the maintenance of the office of the secretariat during the forthcoming year and the projects tentatively under way were approved. With some modifications these rules and regulations were subsequently approved by the International Meteorological Committee, and they have now become the permanent guide for this new feature of the work of the International Meteorological Organization.

The major part of the sessions of the committee was devoted to the reading of reports by the president of the Upper Air Commission, which held its meeting in Madrid recently, and the president of the Polar Year Commission, following the meeting of that and some other commissions at Innsbruck, Austria, in September. The committee devoted considerable time to discussion of the numerous resolutions that resulted from the reports mentioned, and these resolutions, with such modifications as were deemed necessary, were approved or indorsed by the International Committee.

Also meetings were held of the subcommission on organization of the meteorological work of the oceans, more particularly with reference to the ship report work from selected ships on the North Atlantic. Some of the difficulties in connection with the reception and distribution of reports were discussed, and agreements were reached with a view to realizing more uniform and better and more valuable service in the future. Professor Marvin reports that:

It is important to mention in this connection that almost coincidentally with these meetings at Locarno, in connection with ship reports from the oceans, an international conference of radio-marine organizations was held in New York, at which particular consideration was given to the agreement among all radio organizations to transmit meteorological reports from ships at sea free of cost for what is called the "ship tax," in view of the

important benefits that navigation, including radio interests, receive from the free dissemination by meteorological services of forecasts, warnings and important meteorological information.

Perhaps one of the most important actions taken at the Locarno meeting was the decision that, notwithstanding the difficulty confronting the various nations at the present time, the program of intensive observational work which had been previously planned and provided for by nearly all nations for the so-called polar year, beginning with August, 1932, and extending to August, 1933, should be carried through, although it was recognized that the critical situation might make it impracticable to carry out all the features of the program originally contemplated.

THE FOURTEENTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PHYSIOLOGY

THE Fourteenth International Congress of Physiology will be held at Rome from August 29 to September 3, 1932. The officers of the congress are Professor Filippo Bottazzi, professor of physiology in the University of Naples, *president*; Professor G. Quagliariello, of the Institute of Chemical Biology at Naples, and Professor S. Visco, of the Institute of General Physiology at Rome, *secretaries*.

The international committee is composed of Filippo Bottazzi, Naples, who is organizing the congress; Archibald W. Hill, London; Otto Frank, Munich; William H. Howell, Baltimore; John E. Johansson, Stockholm; Louis Lapicque, Paris; I. P. Pawlow, Leningrad.

The meetings will be held in the Institutes of Physics, Chemistry, Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Botany and General Physiology of the Royal University of Rome. These institutes are within short distances of one another, in Via Panisperna 89A, and in Via Milano 71 and 75. The membership fee is 100 lire.

During the congress, besides visits to the various museums in Rome, to the Roman Forum, to the Palatine, etc., members may take part in free trips that have been provided to either Villa Adriana and Villa d'Este, or Ostia-Scavi and Ostia-Lido. After the congress, a trip to Naples with a visit to the Zoological Station, and free excursions by registered members to one of the following places will be arranged: Campi Flegrev (Solfatara) and Curma; Vesuvius and Pompeii; Herculaneum and Paestum. Those will be considered registered who have remitted the membership fee, to the following address: Presidente del Comitato organizzatore del XIV Congresso Internazionale Fisiologia, S. Andrea delle Dame, 21, Napoli (Italy).

Since a large attendance is anticipated it is necessary that each member should present one paper only. Papers not read can be published in the volume of the proceedings. Abstracts of the papers in one of the four official languages (English, French, German,

Italian) must be sent to the president of the congress during the month of May (1932). Those desiring to give experimental demonstrations are requested to specify their requirements, not later than May.

A list will be published in due time of the hotels in Rome and Naples with prices for board and lodging. All necessary information for reserving accommodations in these hotels will be given. To members coming from America, Australia, etc., information will be given in due time concerning the boats upon which passage to and from the congress may be procured. The Italian Government will grant a reduction in the prices of railway tickets from the Italian frontier or from the Italian port of landing to Rome and Naples as well as from Rome or Naples to the frontier or to the Italian port of sailing.

PRESENTATION OF A PORTRAIT OF PROFESSOR CHARLES E. MUNROE TO THE COSMOS CLUB

AN oil painting of the distinguished chemist, Professor Charles E. Munroe, of the Bureau of Mines, was presented to the Cosmos Club of Washington, D. C., on December 9, by Dr. Henry G. Knight, chief of the U. S. Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, on behalf of more than 200 friends, associates and former students of Dr. Munroe. The painting, which represents Dr. Munroe seated, glancing up from a manuscript which he has been reading, was the work of a Washington artist, Mr. Hermann Ludden.

At the presentation exercises presided over by Dr. Knight, Dr. Marcus Benjamin, of the Smithsonian Institution, and Dr. Henry S. Washington, of the Geophysical Laboratory, spoke of Dr. Munroe's achievements; Dr. Munroe and the artist responded; Dr. Knight presented the portrait, which was accepted for the Cosmos Club by Dr. William C. White, president, and Dr. Lyman J. Briggs, chairman, of the art committee of the club.

Dr. Munroe has been active in scientific circles in Washington for fifty years. He has been president of the Cosmos Club, the Washington Chemical Society and the American Chemical Society and is an honorary fellow of the American Institute of Chemists. For many years he was dean of the Graduate School of George Washington University and served for several years as a member of the National Research Council.

The plan to present the portrait was sponsored by a distinguished committee which included Dr. A. C. Fieldner, of the Bureau of Mines; Dr. R. E. Gibson, president of the Washington Chemical Society; Dr. H. G. Knight; D. F. J. Lynch, president of the Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Chemists; former Chief Justice Walter I. McCoy, president of the Harvard Club of Washington; Dr. Cloyd H. Marvin, president of George Washington University, and Dr. H. S. Washington, of the Carnegie Institution. Dr. J. F. Couch acted as secretary-treasurer for the committee.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. ALBERT EINSTEIN, of the University of Berlin, passed through the Panama Canal on December 19 on his way to California, where he plans to spend two months at the California Institute of Technology and the Mount Wilson Observatory.

PROFESSOR A. B. LAMB, of Harvard University, has been elected president of the American Chemical Society for 1933. The president for 1932 is Dr. L. V. Redman, vice-president and director of research of the Bakelite Corporation, who succeeds Professor Moses Gomberg, of the University of Michigan, on January 1.

DR. IRVING LANGMUIR, of the General Electric Company at Schenectady, a former president of the American Chemical Society, was elected to honorary membership in the Chemists' Club, New York, at a meeting of its members on November 11.

THE John Scott Medals of the City of Philadelphia, for inventions in science and industry that "may add to the comfort, welfare and happiness of mankind," were presented at the recent annual meeting of the

American Society of Mechanical Engineers in New York City. The recipients were Albert Kingsbury, of Greenwich, Connecticut, "for the invention of a thrust bearing for use in ships and heavy machinery"; Albert H. Emery, Jr., of Stamford, Connecticut, "for the invention of the Southwark-Emery testing machine, a mechanical device for testing materials"; and Willis H. Carrier, of Newark, New Jersey, "for the invention of a process and apparatus for cleaning, purifying, and humidifying the air." At the same meeting of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Mr. Kingsbury received the society's gold medal, for research work and development in lubrication.

THE employees of the Abbott Laboratories, North Chicago, Illinois, have presented an oil portrait of himself to Alfred S. Burdick, celebrating his tenth anniversary as president of the company. Resolutions signed by the 750 employees of the company were also presented to Dr. Burdick, voicing their affection and appreciation of his leadership in the ten best years of the company's history.