

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

CONGRESS OF THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL AND ETHNOLOGICAL SCIENCES¹

A PRELIMINARY program of the first session of the International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences to meet in London under the presidency of the Earl of Onslow from July 30 until August 4 next is now available. The headquarters will be at University College, Gower Street, W.C.2. The inaugural meeting will take place in the Great Hall of the College on July 30 at 3 p. m., when H.R.H. the Duke of York will receive the delegates and declare the Congress open, and Lord Onslow will deliver his presidential address. On the same day at 10 p. m. H. M. Government will hold a reception of the members of the Congress at Lancaster House, St. James's, S.W. The business of the congress will be conducted in general and sectional meetings. At the first of the general meetings, which will be held on July 31 at 8:30 p. m., Sir Aurel Stein will deliver the Huxley Memorial Lecture of the Royal Anthropological Institute and will receive the Institute's Huxley Memorial Medal for 1934. At subsequent general meetings in the evenings of the following days, the congress will be addressed by Dr. R. R. Marett, Professor T. C. Hodson and Professor J. B. S. Haldane, each of whom will deal with some one aspect of present tendencies in anthropological studies. Communications addressed to the congress by its members will be submitted to meetings of the sections, of which there will be eight, each one dealing with a major division of the studies with which the congress is concerned.

So far as it is possible to judge from this preliminary outline, the proceedings of the sections will be of the greatest interest. In each section topics of inquiry are suggested, although members are not thereby necessarily precluded from submitting communications on other matters. In the Anatomical and Physical Section, which will meet under Professor Elliot Smith, for example, the central theme will be man's place among the primates. In most sections, however, the range is sufficiently wide to cover all points which members are likely to have time or desire to discuss. Joint meetings between two or more sections occupy a prominent place in the program. The Section of Ethnography, which, naturally, is expected to have the heaviest list of communications, will meet in three divisions, General Ethnography under Dr. A. C. Haddon, African Ethnography under the Rev. E. W. Smith and American Ethnography under Capt. T. A. Joyce. The last named sub-section has been specially arranged with the view of welcoming American workers on their way to attend the International Congress

of Americanists to be held later at Seville. It will take as its central theme of discussion the interrelation of pre-Spanish American culture centers and their possible connection with extra-American influences, affording, it is hoped, a welcome opportunity for placing on record the results of the most recent developments in research. In the African Section current problems impinging on questions of administration and the future development of the African will be kept well in view.

THE NEW TELESCOPE AT GREENWICH OBSERVATORY

ACCORDING to the London *Times*, appointed visitors of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, met on June 2 to receive the report of the Astronomer Royal and, this being a special occasion, to take part in the formal inauguration by the First Lord of the Admiralty, Sir Bolton Eyres-Monsell, of the new telescope made possible by a gift of £15,000 from W. Johnston Yapp.

The company included, as members of the official board, Sir Frederick Hopkins, president of the Royal Society; Professor F. J. M. Stratton, president of the Royal Astronomical Society; Sir William Bragg, Professor Alfred Fowler, Sir James Jeans, Sir Joseph Petavel, Sir Napier Shaw, Professor Sydney Chapman, Sir Gerald Lenox-Conyngham, Professor H. F. Newall, Professor H. H. Plaskett (Oxford University Observatory), Sir Arthur Eddington and others well known in astronomical and official circles. They assembled outside the building that houses the new telescope, which is not within the boundary of the observatory proper, but in an enclosure of the Park, about 350 yards from it, towards the top of Maze Hill, that was added to the domain of the Astronomer Royal in 1898 for the purposes of magnetic work.

Owing to the extended use of electricity near Greenwich, it was found advisable some years ago to establish a magnetic observatory at Abinger, Surrey, as an adjunct to the Royal Observatory, leaving the space in Greenwich Park available for the new telescope. There is enough room also in the enclosure for a reversible transit circle that is being made by Messrs. Cooke, Troughton and Simms for the observatory, the housing for which, semi-cylindrical in shape, constructed by the Cleveland Bridge Company, was on view.

In his speech, as reported in the *Times*, the Astronomer Royal, Dr. H. Spencer Jones, said:

that they were celebrating 259 years of the Royal Observatory. It was some 40 years since the observatory last had a gift of a large telescope, but never before had it had the gift of a telescope and a building ade-

¹ From *Nature*.

quate for it such as had been presented through the generosity of Mr. Yapp. The first Astronomer Royal, Flamsteed, was appointed at a salary of £100 a year, out of which he had to provide his own instruments. The new instrument had a larger aperture and a greater light-collecting power than any other instrument the observatory possessed. It was about as large as could be used with advantage in the English climate.

The telescope had been presented in commemoration of the work of Sir Frank Dyson as Astronomer Royal in directing the work of the observatory for nearly twenty-five years. During the war came the development of the generalized theory of relativity. That could only be tested by astronomical observations, and, in particular, one of the most important tests could only be made at the time of the total eclipse of the sun.

Sir Frank Dyson knew that this was to happen in May, 1919, and that it would possibly be the most favorable opportunity for making that particular test. It was then about the darkest time in the whole of the war. But not daunted by that, he set to work immediately to prepare plans and organize expeditions, so that if the war ended in time those expeditions could be sent out. As a result they did go, one from that observatory and one from Cambridge, and brought back results which settled conclusively that the predictions of the generalized relativity theory were practical.

THE LEON MANDEL GUATEMALA EXPEDITION OF THE FIELD MUSEUM

KARL P. SCHMIDT, F. J. W. Schmidt and Daniel Clark, who returned in April from Guatemala, to the Field Columbian Museum, Chicago, report the success of several of the objects of the Leon Mandel Guatemala Expedition. Emmet R. Blake, ornithologist, remained in the field until June 1 in order to conclude studies on the distribution of Guatemalan birds.

According to the *Bulletin* of the Museum, the expedition obtained specimens and accessory material for exhibition groups of three of the most characteristic and interesting of Central American birds—the toucans, the giant oriole, and the quetzal. Two species of toucans, with their brilliant colors and grotesquely enlarged beaks, were found feeding in great flocks on fruit trees in the forest. The giant orioles drape whole trees with their woven hanging nests which are from three to six feet in length. Their colonies are a remarkable feature of the tropical landscape, and specimens of the nests as well as the birds were collected. Special permission was granted by President Jorge Ubico, of Guatemala, to collect the quetzal, which enjoys special protection as the national bird of Guatemala. This most brilliant of all the trogons was formerly so persecuted for its plumes that it has become one of the rarest of birds. Specimens were found in the cloud forest on the slopes of the Volcans Tajumulco in western Guatemala, and a

small series was collected for the exhibit planned for the Proposed Hall of Foreign Birds.

The scientific results of the expedition in the accumulation of representative collections from this rich territory are as valuable as the materials obtained for the exhibition halls. The collection of reptiles and amphibians will enable Assistant Curator Karl P. Schmidt to conclude his project for a comprehensive list of the Central American forms undertaken under the joint auspices of Field Museum and the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation.

Specialization on certain groups of small mammals and the employment of a wide variety of methods of collecting produced interesting results, especially with bats and certain rodents. The collections of these mammals obtained by Mr. F. J. W. Schmidt include some of the rarest of Central American species as well as several forms hitherto unknown.

Previous expeditions to Guatemala under the auspices of the Field Museum worked in limited areas. The larger personnel of the present expedition has made possible more comprehensive work in this territory.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WILD-LIFE DEMONSTRATION AREA

PREPARING to set landowners an example in wild-life restoration, the U. S. Department of Agriculture has decided to devote 800 acres on its Beltsville (Md.) Experiment Station to the development of wild-life resources and the demonstration of management practices. The Bureau of Biological Survey will be in charge.

Typical of areas on many farms, the tract comprises cultivated sections, abandoned crop lands, timber and marshes. A small stream with several branches runs through the area. Already there are foxes, opossums and raccoons; squirrels, rabbits and other rodents on the tract. More than fifty species of birds nest there.

In treating this tract as a demonstration area the Biological Survey plans to construct two simple dams that will impound water for wild fowl and also for muskrats and beavers. Wild-life food plants found on the area will be encouraged, others have been planted, and studies will be made of other means for the restoration, increase and conservation of the wild life of the region.

The department in its program of demonstrating wild-life management is first appraising conditions on the area. Soil-cover (including cover for game) and soil surveys have been made, and a topographic survey is nearing completion. Results of these surveys are being recorded on maps.

The bureau is taking a census of the wild life on the tract. Soon after the demonstration area was established, Arthur H. Howell, of the survey, counted the