

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE BLACKPOOL MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

THE British Association for the Advancement of Science will hold its one hundred and fifth annual meeting at Blackpool from September 9 to 16. The inaugural general meeting will take place in the Empress Hall at the Winter Gardens, at 8:30 P. M., on Wednesday evening, September 9, when Sir Josiah Stamp will deliver the presidential address, dealing with the impact of science on society.

It is stated in the preliminary program that the main object of the meeting will be "to obtain more general attention for the objects of science and the removal of any disadvantages of a public kind which impede its progress." Having in view these aims, which are among those prescribed for the association in the first statute adopted on its foundation, the council, in cooperation with the sections, have considered the growing strength of the public demand for a more systematic presentation of selected subjects of scientific investigation in their bearing on the life of the community. It is pointed out that every item in the program potentially possesses such a bearing; the results of any scientific research may, immediately or ultimately, affect the public welfare. It is intended, however, to group together in a definite series each year certain communications in which the more immediate public interest will be stressed.

The presidents of the sections and the titles of their addresses are as follows:

Section A (Mathematical and Physical Sciences): Professor Allan Ferguson, "Trends in Modern Physics."

Section B (Chemistry): Professor J. C. Philip, "The Training of the Chemist for the Service of the Community."

Section C (Geology): Professor H. L. Hawkins, "Paleontology and Humanity."

Section D (Zoology): Dr. Julian Huxley, "Natural Selection and Evolutionary Progress."

Section E (Geography): Brigadier H. S. L. Winterbotham, "Mapping of the Colonial Empire."

Section F (Economic Science and Statistics): Dr. C. R. Fay, "Some Aspects of Commercial Agriculture."

Section G (Engineering): Professor W. Cramp, "The Engineer and the Nation."

Section H (Anthropology): Miss D. A. E. Garrod, "The Upper Paleolithic in the Light of Recent Discovery."

Section I (Physiology): Professor R. J. S. McDowall, "Integration of the Circulation."

Section J (Psychology): A. W. Wolters, "Patterns of Experience."

Section K (Botany): J. Ramsbottom, "The Uses of Fungi."

Section L (Education): Sir Richard Livingstone, "The Future in Education."

Section M (Agriculture): Professor J. Hendrick, "Soil Science in the Twentieth Century."

The first evening discourse will be delivered on September 11 by Clifford C. Paterson. He will speak on science and electric lighting. The second, by Captain F. Kingdon Ward, will deal with plant-hunting and exploration in Tibet. Public lectures will be given in neighboring towns, including Lytham St. Annes, Poulton-le-Fylde, Preston, Southport, Fleetwood, etc. Lectures to young people will be arranged in Blackpool, including one by Brigadier H. S. L. Winterbotham, on the Crown Colonies in Africa.

The societies in correspondence with the association consist of (a) affiliated societies undertaking local scientific investigations and publishing the results, and (b) associated societies of at least three years' standing, and not fewer than 50 members, formed for the purpose of encouraging the study of science. Delegates of the corresponding societies will meet on September 10 and 15, to discuss matters of common interest to the societies and the association. The subject of the presidential address, by Dr. A. B. Rendle, will be "The Preservation of Native Floras."

There will be the usual excursions to educational and industrial institutions and to places of scenic and historic interest in the vicinity of Blackpool, including visits to the Lancashire County Council Agricultural College, Stonyhurst College and Rossall School, which will be open for inspection. An excursion of four days' duration in the Furness District is being arranged in collaboration with the Yorkshire Geological Society immediately preceding the meeting. The numbers attending this excursion will be strictly limited, and application should be made in the first instance to the recorder of Section C, Dr. A. K. Wells, King's College, Strand, London, W.C. 2.

A pamphlet has been issued by the association entitled "Five Years Retrospect, 1931-1935." It is intended that this summary report should be the first of a series dating from the beginning of the association's second century, in 1931, its principal purpose being not to review the transactions of the annual meetings, but to illustrate by examples the perennial activities of the association which arise from or are supplementary to those transactions. It is pointed out that there has never previously been a continuous succession of five years in each of which the numbers at the annual meetings have exceeded 2,000, and the attendances between 1931 and 1935 are regarded as evidence of a widening of the appeal of the association. Future annual meetings will be held in Nottingham in 1937 and in Cambridge in 1938.