SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC UNIONS

THE meeting of the International Council of Scientific Unions, which met this year for the first time in Great Britain, opened in London on April 26 with an informal reception by the president and fellows of the Royal Society. The delegates were received by Sir William Bragg, president of the society, and Dr. N.E. Nörland, of Copenhagen, delivered his address as president of the council. His subject was "The Figure of the Earth." Lectures were given by Sir William Bragg on "Classical Experiments made at the Royal Institution" and by Professor E. V. Appleton on "International Cooperation in Radio Research." On the following day an official reception was given by the University of London at which the degree of doctor of science was conferred on Dr. Nörland.

On April 27, Ramsay Macdonald, Lord President of the council, and Miss Macdonald received the delegates on behalf of the government at Lancaster House, and visits were made to the laboratories at the colleges of London University, research institutions, museums and the Broadcasting House. The sessions closed officially on May 3. The delegates were invited to attend the soiree of the Royal Society on May 4.

The International Council was established in 1919 to take the place of the International Association of Academies, which had lapsed during the war; it meets every three years, its membership being drawn from forty-two countries. The scientific unions, representing astronomy, geodesy and geophysics, chemistry, physics, scientific radio, geography and the biological sciences, present reports to the council at the time of the meeting, and during the three years interim pursue their activities as separate international bodies in affiliation with the council. At the meeting in London the Royal Society of Amsterdam proposed that a committee should be appointed to study what cooperation can be achieved in regard to the social responsibilities of science and scientific workers towards the dangers menacing the future of civilization. The council also had under consideration the report of the standing committee on the study of solar and terrestrial phenomena, and the report of the committee on the relations that should exist between the council and the Committee of Intellectual Cooperation of the League of Nations on matters concerned with international science.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION AT NOTTINGHAM

THE British Association for the Advancement of Science has issued a preliminary program of arrangements for the annual meeting, which will be held this year at Nottingham from September 1 to 8. According to an abstract of this program in the London *Times*, Professor Sir Edward Poulton, in his presidential address, will deal with the history of evolutionary thought as recorded in the meetings of the British Association.

In the sectional programs many of the subjects to be discussed have been marked for inclusion in the series dealing with science and the public welfare. Among them are the sex ratio, which Professor F. A. E. Crew will discuss in his presidential address to the Zoology Section; the changing distribution of population, with which Professor C. B. Fawcett will deal in his presidential address to the Geography Section, and the modern study of plants in relation to education, on which Professor E. J. Salisbury will speak in his presidential address to the Botany Section.

The informative content of education will be the subject of H. G. Wells's presidential address to the Educational Science Section. J. M. Caie will address the Agriculture Section on state intervention in agriculture. Noise and the nation will be the subject of the presidential address of Dr. G. W. C. Kaye to the Mathematical and Physical Sciences Section, and economic research and industrial policy of Professer P. Sargent Florence before the Economics Section. Tests in common use for the diagnosis of color defect will be dealt with by Dr. Mary Collins in her presidential address to the Psychology Section.

Among other subjects which have been included in the series are x-ray methods and industry, problems of labor transference, the contribution of physiology to the health of the individual and the community, adult education, the problem of costs of distribution, the human factor in industry, industrial physics, chemistry and building research, motor vehicles and road safety, physiology as a subject of general education, planning the land of Britain and vulnerability of the national power supply.

Other sectional presidential addresses include those of Dr. F. L. Pyman (Chemistry Section), on recent research in chemotherapy; Sir Alexander Gibb (Engineering Section), on research in engineering; Professor L. J. Wills (Geology Section), on the Pleistocene history of the West Midlands; Dr. J. H. Hutton (Anthropology Section), on Assam origins in relation to Oceania, and Dr. E. P. Poulton (Physiology Section), on metabolism, nutrition and growth in man—some new views.

THE EDGAR FAHS SMITH COLLECTION OF CHEMICAL MEMORABILIA

AN endowment fund of $50,000 for the maintenance and future development of the collection of chemical memorabilia assembled by the late Dr. Edgar Fahs Smith, formerly professor of chemistry and provost