

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE INDIAN SCIENCE CONGRESS

THE silver jubilee meeting of the Indian Science Congress will be held in Calcutta from January 3 to 9. It is pointed out in the *London Times Educational Supplement* that this marks a new departure in the policy of the British Association. It has held sessions of its own in South Africa, in Australia and in Canada, but now it will visit India for the first time. There will be an English delegation of nearly a hundred members of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

The Indian Science Congress Association was founded largely through the efforts of Professor P. S. Macmahon and Dr. J. L. Simonsen, who were joint honorary secretaries until 1921. The Asiatic Society of Bengal undertakes the management of its finances, and publishes the proceedings annually. The objects are to encourage research and to make the results generally known among science workers in India, to give opportunities for personal intercourse and scientific companionship, and to promote public interest in science. The congress, which lasts a week, is held at different centers in January each year. Evening lectures, open to the public, form an important part of the proceedings. The head of the local government at the place of meeting is patron of the congress. The president is chosen annually, the different sections being represented in turn. The sections include agriculture, physics and mathematics, chemistry and applied botany, zoology and ethnography, botany, geology and medical research. The procedure of the British Association is followed, by which, when the sections meet separately, each section is presided over by its own president, also chosen annually.

The presidents of the sections for the meetings are all residents in India. Sir James Jeans will preside in place of the late Lord Rutherford, who had accepted the invitation to be president of the joint congress. Most of the visitors will travel by the P. and O. steamer *Cathay*, which is due at Bombay on December 16. Two days will be devoted there to reception and sight-seeing, and the party will then leave in a special train or trains for a tour. They will visit Hyderabad, by the special invitation of the Nizam's Government, Agra, Delhi, Dehra Dun and Benares, and also intermediate points of interest.

From Calcutta, before the meeting there will be excursions to the Bengal and Behar coalfields, to Tatanagar (the center of the steel industry), Darjeeling, the Sundarbans and the Assam oil fields. After the session there will be a further tour to include Madras and Bangalore.

The requisite fund for the visit has been raised

partly by the Indian Association, partly by the British Association from interested firms and individuals and partly by means of a contribution from the funds of the British Association. The congress will be opened by the Viceroy, who, in accordance with a long tradition, will be spending the Christmas vacation in Calcutta.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE PREVENTION OF PNEUMONIA

DR. THOMAS PARRAN, JR., Surgeon General of the United States, has announced appointment of an advisory committee to undertake to chart a national program for prevention of death from pneumonia. Members of the committee include:

Dr. Donald B. Armstrong, third vice-president of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, in charge of health and welfare work.

Dr. David P. Barr, professor of medicine, Washington University.

Dr. Russell L. Cecil, professor of clinical medicine, Cornell University.

Dr. Lloyd D. Felton, associate professor of pathology and bacteriology, the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Dr. Alfred Friedlander, professor of medicine and dean, College of Medicine, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati.

Dr. Roderick Heffron, of the Commonwealth Fund, New York City, who established the pneumonia-control program for the State Health Department of Massachusetts.

Dr. Ernest E. Irons, clinical professor of medicine and dean, Rush Medical College, Chicago.

Dr. Roger I. Lee, consultant in internal medicine and formerly member of the Public Health Council of Massachusetts, Boston.

Dr. George H. Ramsey, assistant commissioner for preventable diseases, State of New York Department of Health, Albany.

The official statement reads:

With more than half a million cases of pneumonia occurring annually, and with a fatality rate of over sixteen per cent., the preservation of 100,000 lives is a grave challenge to public health administrators throughout the nation.

Pneumonia is the third cause of death in the United States, second only to heart disease and cancer. This does not include influenza, which, if added to the pneumonia figure, would almost equal the cancer mortality rate. The current situation with regard to pneumonia morbidity and mortality, together with the epidemiological aspects of the disease, should be thoroughly discussed and evaluated and a move toward a program of concerted action should be inaugurated.

We have, therefore, called into conference a group of men who, we feel, can contribute the most complete current knowledge of the subject and who are best equipped to discuss the possibility of a future program of control,