

Congress, especially appointed by the Research Council for this purpose, of which Dr. Charles B. Lipman, dean of the Graduate School of the University of California at Berkeley, is the chairman.

In accordance with the plans of previous congresses of this series, the program of the sixth congress will "emphasize the discussion of comprehensive scientific topics of general interest to the peoples living within the Pacific basin," and the theme of the congress will be "the present stage of knowledge of Pacific scientific problems and methods by which that knowledge may be most profitably enlarged." As the congress is designed for discussion and interchange of ideas rather than for precise formulation of attempted solution of problems, the program is being arranged as a series of symposia rather than as a list of independent papers. Among the subjects to be discussed are:

The Pacific Basin: structure and dynamics; geophysics and geology.

The Pacific Ocean: properties, dynamics and life; oceanography.

Pacific climates, past and present: meteorology, paleontology, paleobotany.

Man and culture in the Pacific region; characteristics, dispersal and development, objectives and results of research; anthropology, human geography and ethnobotany.

Territorial fauna of Pacific islands: characteristics, origin, distribution, human relations; chiefly entomology, malacology and ornithology.

Terrestrial flora of Pacific islands and border lands: characteristics, origin, distribution, human relations; botany.

Classification and utilization of Pacific lands.

Communicable diseases of the Pacific area: origin, history, distribution; tropical medicine.

Nutritional problems of the Pacific area.

Conservation of the marine life of the Pacific Ocean.

Soil resources of the Pacific islands and borders: characteristics, conservation.

#### Miscellaneous topics:

Facilities and program of institutions interested in scientific studies of the Pacific area.

Means and methods for cooperative research.

Present status of research in Pacific scientific problems and the outstanding problems that merit attention.

General lectures on regions and special topics.

Additional information concerning the congress may be obtained by addressing the secretary-general, Dr. Roy E. Clausen, Room 205 Hilgard Hall, University of California, Berkeley, California.

### THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE AND THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

JUST before the meeting in Richmond, on December 24, the officers of the association received the following letter from Dr. Reuben T. Shaw, president of the National Education Association:

As a fellow of long standing in the American Association for the Advancement of Science, who is now honored with the leadership of the National Education Association, I extend to you the greetings of the nation's teachers and their best wishes for the success of your convention at Richmond.

Scientists and teachers have a community of interest. The scientist discovers truth, the teacher interprets it. We hope that both may cooperate as one profession, interested in aiding man on his road to happiness. In that capacity let us appraise the results of research and investigation, not so much in terms of scientific achievement as in terms of their effect upon the democratic society which the American people have adopted as the Good Life.

It is one thing to shout the alarm that democracy is challenged to-day. That alarm has often been sounded. It is another thing quietly to answer that challenge with the effective weapons that lie in truth and its acceptance and application by mankind. Those weapons are the tools with which the scientist and the teacher work each day. With them let us lay impregnable foundations for the security of free self-government.

By unanimous vote of the council on December 30, the officers of the association sent the following reply to Dr. Shaw:

The Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science has received with lively appreciation the friendly greetings of the National Education Association which are conveyed in your letter of December 23. It is a source of satisfaction that two of the largest organizations of teachers and scientists in the world are affiliated and consciously cooperating in the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men. Many of the members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science are teachers, many of the National Education Association are scientists, and in large part the ultimate aims of our two associations are complementary.

With the belief that there can be no permanent progress of mankind except through the discovery and promulgation of truth and that science and education are now the principal means of human progress, the American Association for the Advancement of Science welcomes the cordial cooperation of the National Education Association and in turn desires to offer its support in your efforts to increase and improve education.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. WILLIAM D. COOLIDGE, director of the Research Laboratory of the General Electric Company, has been awarded the Faraday Medal for 1938 for "notable scientific and industrial achievement" by the council of

the British Institution of Electrical Engineers. Dr. Coolidge is the second member of the General Electric Company to receive the medal, the other having been the late Dr. Elihu Thomson.