

loose as possible, and there has been no subscription. In spite of this, useful work has been done, discussions have been organized in connection with the Zoological Society, the Linnean Society and the British Association, and "The New Systematics," a book of essays on recent progress in taxonomy in relation to other branches of biology, edited by Dr. Julian Huxley, will be published soon by the Oxford University Press.

It has now, however, been decided that, in order that the association may function still more effectively, a regular income is necessary, and a subscription of 5s. a year has been fixed for the first three years. An agreement has been made with the Linnean Society, whereby the association may use the society's rooms for meetings, joint discussions are to be held, and the annual report will appear in the *Proceedings* of the Linnean Society.

The general aim of the association is to remedy the isolation which modern specialization has inevitably created in the various branches of biology. Its objects include the study of the bases and practical aims of taxonomy; the examination of the criteria employed in defining species and other systematic categories; the consideration of modifications of the existing categories in the light of various branches of specialized research; the promotion of research; the investigation of methods of teaching systematics; and the promotion of cooperation between workers in different branches of biology and taxonomic problems. The association plans eventually to produce a uniform series of handbooks on the British fauna and flora.

The chairman of the association is Dr. Julian Huxley; J. S. L. Gilmour is botanical secretary; H. W. Parker, zoological secretary, and Dr. J. Smart, treasurer. The address of the treasurer is care of the British Museum (Natural History), London, S.W. 7.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF GENETICS

BEFORE the opening of the International Congress of Genetics at Edinburgh a special cable to *The New York Times*, signed by Ritchie Calder, reported that Professor N. I. Vavilov, president of the congress, together with fifty of his colleagues had withdrawn from the congress and that Soviet science would not be represented either by a delegation or by individuals. The official explanation, contained in a letter to Professor F. A. E. Crew, secretary-general of the congress, is that the Russians could not participate because the congress should have been held in Moscow instead of Edinburgh.

Mr. Calder wrote that this announcement, which was received on the eve of the congress, came as a complete surprise. Two years ago plans to hold the congress in Moscow were abandoned because of differences and restrictions that foreign geneticists could not

accept. By a decision of the international committee that organizes the congress, the meeting was transferred to Edinburgh, but it was also decided that the president should be Professor Vavilov as arranged and that the Russians should have a dominant part in the proceedings.

Three weeks before the opening, Professor Vavilov, who for eighteen months had been actively participating in the arrangements, discovered that the project for meeting in Moscow had not been "abandoned" but only "postponed" and that the Edinburgh proceedings were therefore out of order.

Russian papers, including the presidential address, had been received and printed. They had to be suppressed and all the program had to be readjusted and reissued to close the fifty gaps caused by this wholesale retreat.

No one, according to the *Times*, seriously accepted the official explanation. It is known that there have been growing differences of opinion among Russian geneticists, and one section is demanding "Marxist genetics." Thus Soviet biology has become involved with ideology.

It is also thought that the turn of international events has had some bearing on the fact that the Russians had not received their passports.

About a quarter of the German geneticists had also withdrawn. Six out of twelve members in the field of human genetics were "unable to attend," but thirty-two were expected to be present at the opening of the Congress. One of the principal papers planned for that day was a study of heredity and environment through identical twins by Professor Fritz Lenz, of Berlin. About twenty Italians were expected to take part. The American contingent numbered 120, and there were large delegations from France, the Netherlands and Scandinavia.

OPENING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR MICROBIOLOGY

THE third International Congress for Microbiology opened at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City, on September 2. According to the *New York Herald Tribune* many scientific men from abroad who expected to be present were unable to attend and others must return as soon as transportation can be arranged.

Nearly all the forty-two official delegates designated by the German government actually sailed on the Hamburg-American liner *Hansa*, but the boat was recalled to Hamburg. Several official delegates designated by the Italian Government were to have sailed on the Italian liner *Conte di Savoia*, but the sailing was cancelled, and the ship is still in Naples.

Some of those who were unable to attend were already in the service of their governments. Among these is Dr. G. Ramon, director of the Pasteur Insti-

tute in Paris, who was to have headed the French delegation. He is engaged in preparing vaccines and anti-toxins for the French Government. Dr. Pierre Lepine, head of the rabies and virus diseases department of the Pasteur Institute, took his place.

The first general session of the congress on Monday was to have been devoted to addresses by Professor Dr. A. J. Kluyver, of Delft, the Netherlands; Dr. Paul Fildes, of London, and Dr. C. Levaditi, of Paris, and Wednesday's general session to addresses by Professor Dr. Eduard Reichenow, of Hamburg, Germany;

Professor A. Missiroli, of Rome, and Dr. B. O. Dodge, of New York. Of these speakers only Dr. Dodge was able to be present. Mayor F. H. La Guardia and Dr. John L. Rice, commissioner of health, welcomed the delegates at the opening ceremonies at the Waldorf-Astoria. Other speakers included Dr. Thomas M. Rivers, director of the Hospital of the Rockefeller Institute and president of the congress; Sir John C. G. Ledingham, director of the Lister Institute, London, and Dr. Lewis R. Jones, of the University of Wisconsin.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE British Association for the Advancement of Science adjourned on September 1 after meeting for only three days. Before adjournment Sir Richard Gregory, formerly editor of *Nature*, was elected president in succession to Sir Albert Seward.

COLUMBUS ISELIN, 2nd, assistant professor of oceanography at Harvard University, was appointed director of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution at the recent annual meeting of the Board of Trustees. He succeeds Dr. Henry B. Bigelow, who was elected president of the corporation in succession to Dr. Frank R. Lillie.

P. H. BATES, chief of the Clay and Silicate Products Division of the National Bureau of Standards, has been awarded the Turner Gold Medal of the American Concrete Institute. The award was made for "contributions to science, direction of research and outstanding leadership in advancing the intelligent utilization of cement and concrete."

At the San Antonio meeting of the American Home Economics Association, Dr. Icie G. Macy-Hoobler, director of the research laboratory of the Children's Fund of Michigan, Detroit, was presented with the 1939 gold medal and the \$1,000 prize of the Borden Company for research achievement in applied nutrition.

PROFESSOR JOSEPH RIGNEY D'AUNOY, who recently resigned as dean of the Medical Center of the Louisiana State University, remaining as professor of pathology and bacteriology, has been decorated with the Order of Commendatore of the Crown of Italy "in recognition of his achievements in the fields of medical research and education."

THE honorary doctorate of the medical faculty of the University of Freiburg/Br. has been conferred on Dr. Eugen Fischer, professor of anthropology at Berlin. He has also been awarded the Goethe prize for art and science.

THE following corresponding members of the Prus-

sian Academy of Sciences have been elected: Dr. Heinrich Vogt, professor of astronomy at Heidelberg; Dr. Peter Adolf Thiessen, professor of physical chemistry at Berlin, and Dr. Siegmund Shumacher, professor of histology and embryology at Innsbruck.

DR. A. FRANKE, of Arnstadt, Germany, has recently received the honorary doctorate of the University of Jena for his contributions to geology, especially in the field of micropaleontology.

AT Teachers College, Columbia University, Dr. Jean Broadhurst, professor of bacteriology, and Dr. M. A. Bigelow, professor of biology, have been appointed emeritus professors. Successors have not been appointed because the Division of Practical Science and the Institute of Practical Science Research have been discontinued.

DR. EDGAR HULL, for the past eight years a member of the Medical Center, New Orleans, has been made acting head of the department of medicine of the Louisiana State University. He succeeds the late George S. Bel.

DR. KARL BRANDT, professor of agricultural economics in the Food Research Institute of Stanford University, has joined the staff of the Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics of the University of California.

DR. RALPH W. BOST has been made head of the department of chemistry of the University of North Carolina. He takes the place of Dr. Edward Mack, Jr., who resigned to become a member of the staff of the Battelle Memorial Institute, Columbus, Ohio.

DR. NELSON F. MURPHY, of the chemical engineering staff of the General Chemical Company, New York City, has been appointed assistant professor in chemical engineering in the College of Applied Science, Syracuse University.

DR. LLOYD H. DONNELL, of the Goodyear Zeppelin Corporation, has become associate professor of mechanical engineering at the Armour Institute, Chicago.