

A noteworthy event of the meeting was the speech given by Professor C. S. Minot, President of the American Association, in which he invited members of the British Association to attend the meeting to be held early next January at Washington. Professor Minot said he had been directed by the council of his Association to express the hope that as many members as possible of the British Association would attend the Washington meeting. A vote had been passed to the effect that all members of the British Association would be received upon presenting themselves at the meetings in America as members of the American Association without further requirements. In future, as has already been announced in these columns, the annual meetings of the American Association will begin on the first Monday after Christmas and extend throughout the week. The scientific societies affiliated with the Association have agreed to this arrangement, and the universities have consented to the establishment of this 'Convocation Week,' in which the meetings of scientific societies are to be held. It is expected that the first meeting to be held next January under this rule will be the most important scientific gathering ever held in America. In the course of his remarks, Professor Minot said:

It was the duty, he believed, which they should all perform to attend these gatherings and take part in international intercourse. Many Americans had come to the British Association, and they had always been treated with the greatest hospitality. They arrived strangers and went away friends; they brought expectations, and took back realizations and a grateful memory. He asked for one moment in which to remind them of a new historic condition never existing in the world before. It was the first time that two great nations existed with a common speech, a common past, a common history; would they not therefore so work together that they might build up a common future? And for the scientific man this duty came first. Each nation was governed not by the government, but by the men of learning and above all by the universities. Nowhere, he believed, in the Anglo-Saxon world had science yet taken its place in the universities. Nowhere in the Anglo-Saxon world had the full value of scientific knowledge throughout the

whole range of life, from the university down to every practical affair—nowhere, he said, had the full power of the world of science been established.

Professor Dewar, in replying on behalf of the Association, said:

They were all delighted to hear the kind invitation which had been extended to the members of the Association by their brother workers on the other side of the Atlantic. The great blunder we in the United Kingdom were perpetrating for many years past was in remaining ignorant of what was being done on the other side of the Atlantic. He had again and again said to manufacturers and those interested in industrial progress that if they would subsidize their chief officials by a donation which would enable them to spend their short holiday by going to see what could be seen during a three weeks' residence in the United States, to note how they economize time there, how a person could be transferred from place to place, the freedom with which one is allowed to see the great internal organization—if they did that they would be repaid one-hundredfold. He did not know of anything that had occurred to himself personally which had affected him so much as a short visit which he had the honor of paying to America. Both in the universities and in applied industries it was a revelation to him, and he was sure it would be a personal gratification to every member of that association, and an entirely new revelation to them, if they took advantage of the invitation offered. He hoped some of the officials of the British Association would be present on the great occasion in Washington.

THE METRIC SYSTEM IN GREAT BRITAIN.

CONSUL-GENERAL H. CLAY EVANS sends to the Department of State from London, August 30, 1902, a letter from the secretary of the Decimal Association, showing the progress of efforts to have the metric system of weights and measures adopted in England. The letter says:

It has come to my knowledge that there is a considerable feeling in favor of the adoption of the metric weights and measures in the United States of America, and with this in mind, I am sure that you will be interested in information regarding the prospect of this country adopting metric weights and measures also.

I therefore venture to lay before you the following information: There are 290 members of the present House of Commons so thoroughly in accord with our aims that they have given me authority to publish their names as supporters. If we add to this the number of members of Parliament who would be influenced by a debate in the House of Commons to vote in our favor, we are convinced that we are now strong enough to carry a bill.

During the last four or five weeks, no less than sixty city, town, and county councils have passed resolutions to the effect that it is desirable that the reform should be made in the interest of commerce and education.

One of the most definite results, in fact, I think I may say, the most definite result, of the conference of the colonial premiers was the passing of a resolution in favor of the adoption of the metric weights and measures throughout the British Empire. This will have a most important result, and will render certain the early passing of a bill to give effect to those views.

All the chambers of commerce in this country, nearly all the school boards, the trades unions, and a great number of societies of various kinds have for a long time been active supporters of my association.

The attitude of our premier may be gathered from some remarks he made to the deputation which waited upon him in regard to this question in 1895. He said:

"If I may express my own opinion upon the merits of the case, there can be no doubt whatever that the judgment of the whole civilized world, not excluding the countries which still adhere to the antiquated systems under which we suffer, has long decided that the metric system is the only rational system."

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

A COMMITTEE has been formed for the erection of a public memorial of the late Professor Virchow in Berlin, with Professor Waldeyer as chairman.

A MONUMENT, consisting of a pedestal and a bust by the sculptor, Marqueste, is to be

erected in the Paris Museum of Natural History, in memory of Alphonse Milne-Edwards.

MR. WILLIAM BATESON, fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, and author of important contributions to zoology, is at present in the United States.

DR. F. Y. EDGEWORTH, professor of political economy at Oxford University, known for his important contributions to statistics and mathematics, will give a course of lectures at Harvard University, beginning about the middle of the present month.

COL. H. A. YORKE, of the British Royal Engineer Army Corps, is at present in the United States, for the purpose of inspecting the electrical railway system.

MR. JAMES MOONEY, of the Bureau of Ethnology, recently returned from studies among the Kiowa Indians and expects to leave shortly to resume his work which will be continued through the coming winter. He is now engaged in the preparation of a set of models of Kiowa shields and tipis. Each of the latter is being made by the man who alone has a right to use it. The former are all by native artists working under direct instruction of the owner of the shield. Mr. Mooney is having a similar set of models of Cheyenne shields and tipis prepared for the Field Columbian Museum, Chicago.

PROFESSOR CHARLES E. BESSEY has been appointed by the University of Nebraska to be its delegates to the inaugural exercises of Chancellor Strong, of the University of Kansas, October 17.

PROFESSOR J. P. IDDINGS, professor of petrology in the University of Chicago, has been elected a Foreign Member of the Scientific Society of Christiania, Norway.

THE King of Italy has conferred the cross of a grand officer of the Italian Order of the Crown on Mr. G. Marconi.

MR. ANDREW CARNEGIE will be installed as rector of the University of St. Andrews on October 22. Dr. Andrew D. White will at the same time receive the degree of LL.D. Dr. White will also receive the degree of D.C.L. at Oxford, where he will attend the three hundredth anniversary of the Bodleian Library.