

purposes before large classes, they can be used in work with small classes with excellent results. The price is 50 Marks; the agent, Dietrich Reimer (Ernst Vohsen), in Berlin. There have been few additions to the teaching equipment in meteorology and climatology in recent years which are of more value than Kassner's meteorological globes. It is to be hoped that many of them will find places in our geographical laboratories, both in schools and in colleges.

#### WATERSPOUTS ON THE SWISS LAKES

PROFESSOR J. FRÜH has recently published an interesting paper on the waterspouts of the Swiss Lakes ("Wasserhosen auf Schweizerseen," *Jahresber. geogr.-ethnogr. Gesells. Zürich*, 1906-07, 105-127), in which a detailed account is given of the waterspout of June 19, 1905, on the Lake of Zug. This spout was 18-20 meters in diameter, and stirred up the waters of the lake within an area of 100 meters, more or less. The whirling column was hollow; had a left-handed rotation; was more than half a mile high. Its velocity of progression was somewhat over seven miles an hour, in an easterly direction. Several photographs were taken of this waterspout, three of which are reproduced in Professor Fröh's article. The author has also collected accounts of what he believes to be well-authenticated waterspouts observed on the Swiss lakes. There are 22 in all, noted on nine lakes. Of these waterspouts, all were observed by day, and 14 of the 22 occurred in the (meteorological) summer. There is no evidence of any value to the effect that any of these spouts were produced by the meeting of winds coming from different directions.

#### A HYGROSCOPE OF A UNIQUE PATTERN

IN *Symons's Monthly Meteorological Magazine* for November, 1907, John Aitken describes a simple hygroscope which he has used for many years. The petal of one of the so-called everlasting flowers is attached to a stiff hair, which serves as a pointer, and the petal and hair together are fastened on a dial, set in a metal case. The instrument is about as

sensitive as a hair hygroscope; is more compact, and much cheaper. An illustration shows the construction of the hygroscope.

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#### THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR THE REPRESSION OF ADULTERATION OF ALIMENTARY AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

THE First International Congress for the Repression of the Adulteration of Alimentary and Pharmaceutical Products will be held in Geneva in September, 1908. As described in the preliminary statement issued by the congress, it has been felt for many years that such a movement was desirable and necessary, but more general matters occupied the limited time of the international congresses, and while these subjects were taken up among others, they did not receive undivided attention. The feeling that such a congress is necessary has been crystallizing for a quarter of a century, and at the Fourteenth Congress of Hygiene and Demography, in Berlin, 1907, the Universal Society of the Geneva White Cross conceived the thought of initiative action. The plan for the first meeting is an exhibition of unadulterated products, and the consideration of this occasion will be the "Defining of Unadulterated Food." In every case definition will be the basis of each decision, establishing a "codex alimentarius." It is desired by the committee of organization that manufacturers, chemists and lawyers who are interested in this question, should unite in forming these definitions.

Dr. H. W. Wiley, Bureau of Chemistry, Washington, D. C., has been asked to undertake the organization of the American committee. He hopes to associate with him those in the various states who have charge of the application of the food and drug laws, to whom he has written individually, inasmuch as these should be represented if possible as a whole. For the benefit of the chemists of the country at large, as well as others of every class who desire to identify themselves with this movement, the statutes of the congress are reproduced herewith:

ARTICLE 1.—The first International Congress for the repression of alimentary and pharmaceutical adulterations will be held in Geneva in September, 1908.

ARTICLE 2.—The congress comprises three classes of members: donors, nominal members and associated members.

1. *Donors*.—Any person having contributed the sum of at least 100 francs can take part in the congress as a donor.

These members take an active part in the work of the congress and receive its publications. Their names head the list of the members of the congress.

2. *Nominal Members*.—Any person, or body, having contributed the sum of 20 francs can take part in the congress as nominal members.

Each of the bodies entered in the category of nominal members can be represented by one or more delegates. In the latter case, the amount of the participation quota has to be paid by each of them.

The nominal members take an effective part in the work of the congress and receive its publications.

3. *Associated Members*.—All persons forming part of the family of a nominal member (wife, brothers, sisters, sons, etc.) who contribute the sum of 10 francs can be associated.

The associated members enjoy, in the same way as the nominal members, all the advantages offered by public administrations on traveling fares.

They do not receive the publications of the congress, do not take part in either the voting or the discussions and can not make any communications. They are invited to the fêtes and official receptions; they may be present at the sittings.

ARTICLE 3.—Only the regular receipts, given by the secretary general and signed by him, can secure admission to the congress, as well as delivery of the admission card and the forwarding of the publications. This card will be necessary for admittance to the sittings and for participation in the advantages offered to members of the congress. Provisory receipts, delivered by local or foreign committees are not available.

ARTICLE 4.—When sending their contribution to the secretary general, Rue du Rhône, 42, Geneva, members are requested to write distinctly their surnames, christian names, rank and address, and to enclose their visiting card.

ARTICLE 5.—Besides other advantages (particularly interesting traveling fares), and in addition to the volume of preliminary reports and résumés which will be distributed long before the opening of the congress, the donors and nominal members

will be entitled to the other publications and to the reports of the congress.

ARTICLE 6.—The official languages of the congress are English, French, German and Italian.

In each country the reports to be presented at the congress must be addressed to the secretary of the delegation of said country.

ARTICLE 7.—The congress will comprise:

1. A general opening meeting.
2. Meetings of sections for the reading and discussion of reports and communications.
3. General meetings (two at most) for communications and discussions which interest the sections jointly.
4. A general closing meeting.
5. Public lectures.
6. Excursions.
7. Fêtes and receptions.

The exact program of the use of the time will be published later on.

The chairman has the direction of the sitting; he gives a member the hearing of the assembly or prevents him speaking according to parliamentary rules.

ARTICLE 8.—Not more than fifteen minutes are allowed for a reading or a speech, and the members who take part in the discussion must not speak longer than five minutes each. Speakers are requested to give, the same day, a manuscript résumé of the observations they have made in the course of a meeting to the secretary of each section.

ARTICLE 9.—The study of the questions submitted to the deliberations of the congress is divided into sections.

The committee of each of the sections will be appointed by the organizing commission, but it will be completed by the sections, so as to add foreign colleagues to the French members.

Each section will sum up its work in the form of propositions or conclusions which will be presented in a written form at the plenary sittings.

The right of amendment will not be diminished, but only such propositions as are written and sent to the committee will be discussed.

ARTICLE 10.—In its closing meeting the congress will fix the town of its next assembly.

Dr. Wiley will undertake to forward names and contributions to the secretary general, together with suggested definitions, in case intending members wish the material transmitted in this way, in order that there may be an American record of members in this

country. In case the dues are thus sent to Washington for transmission to Geneva, a check for \$20 for donating members, \$4 for nominal members, and \$2.50 for associate members should be sent, to cover dues, exchange and postage. To those preferring to send directly, Dr. Wiley will send the blank furnished by the congress, on application. It is particularly desired that as many as are able submit definitions for food and drug products, as it is profitable to accumulate as much material as possible, to establish a broad basis for decisions.

Papers on food and drug products are also solicited, and may be sent directly to the appropriate sections or forwarded to Dr. Wiley for transmittal. It is hoped that a large membership in the congress may be secured from the United States.

#### RECENT REFERENCES TO LAMARCK

THE increased interest in the work of Lamarck is nowhere better evinced than in the number of Lamarckian items which one finds in current journals. In the *Revue Scientifique* (December, 1907) there appears an article on his early career, in *La Nature* (December 21, 1907) a careful study of his paternal family, in the *Journal des Savants* on some of his unpublished writings. And Dr. C. R. Eastman, of Harvard, has now brought to light a manuscript of Lamarck which has in part at least remained unpublished. This document was obtained (probably purchased in Paris) by Professor Alexander Agassiz and was by him presented (1896) to the Museum of Comparative Zoology. It consists of a series of essays, two psychological ("Système de Gall," 40 pp., "Idée et Imagination," 33 pp.), one purely philosophical ("Apperçu analytique des connaissances humaines, avec des divisions et des réflexions tendant à montrer leur degré de certitude, leur source, leur branches principales," 12 pp.) and three zoological ("Questions zoologiques dont la solution est de première importance," 4 pp., "Discussion sur les caractères essentiels des animaux et sur la définition qui peut les embrasser généralement," 12 pp., "Histoire naturelle" (scope of), 4 pp.). Following these are numerous

drawings, doubtless from the hand of Lamarck, some in crude outline, as his "monads," some in color, of which one is a beautifully executed figure of a holothurian. At the instance of Dr. Eastman the manuscript has recently been placed in the hands of Professor Bashford Dean, of Columbia University, for detailed examination and publication.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

PRESIDENT ELIOT, of Harvard University, will deliver six lectures at Northwestern University on the Norman W. Harris Foundation. His general subject will be University Administration, and the dates and titles of the separate lectures as follows: Lecture I., "The Trustees." Thursday evening, April 9, at 8 o'clock. Lecture II., "An Inspecting and Concurring body—Alumni Influence." Friday evening, April 10, at 8 o'clock. Lecture III., "The University Faculty." Saturday morning, April 11, at 10 o'clock. Lecture IV., "The Elective System—Academic Distinctions." Saturday evening, April 11, at 8 o'clock. Lecture V., "Methods of Instruction—Social Organization." Monday evening, April 13, at 8 o'clock. Lecture VI., "Administration—The University President." Tuesday evening, April 14, at 8 o'clock.

PROFESSOR W. M. DAVIS, of Harvard University, and Professor A. P. Brigham, of Colgate University, will give several lectures on "The Geography of North America" in the School of Geography to be held at Oxford University from August 10 to 28.

SIR OLIVER LODGE'S presidential address to the Faraday Society, to be given on March 24, will have as its subject "Some Aspects of the Work of Lord Kelvin."

A BANQUET has been tendered to Dr. Robert Koch by the profession in Berlin. A portrait medallion was presented him, the first of a series of medallions of prominent living German physicians.

THE following fifteen candidates have been selected by the council of the Royal Society to be recommended for election as fellows: Mr. W. Barlow, the Earl of Berkeley, Mr. Dugald