

few other scarcely notable series of the same kind have been published. Hough conceived the idea of issuing our native woods in larger sections, representing side by side the three—cross, radial and tangential—needed for a stereo visualization of the stem structure. Thirteen fascicles, of twenty-five species each, have been published; and these auto-illustrations stand alone in their field. Mastering the technique of cutting such sections opened a commercial industry in cross-section business cards and the like, the use of which he promoted extensively.

Monographs and manuals of North American trees are many and varied; unique among them is Hough's "Handbook of the Trees of the Northern United States and Canada," with its admirably selected and prepared phototype and distribution map and a photographic reproduction of the cross-section of the wood of each species.

It is to be regretted that their author did not live to bring out two contemplated additional fascicles of the sections of American woods, and a "Handbook of Western Trees" that he planned as a companion to the eastern volume; but there is reason to hope that the materials for both are sufficiently in hand to insure their publication. Whether this be so or not, however, Romeyn B. Hough has made a rare contribution to American botany in a model book, and especially in a series of illustrations consisting of the woods themselves—which, unlike texts and drawings, never can become out-of-date nor be found to contain untruths except as the names applied in his day to the trees he sectioned undergo change with progressing knowledge.

WILLIAM TRELEASE

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL CONGRESS¹

THE project of an International Geographical Congress to be held at Cairo in 1925 was first discussed over two years ago in association with the coming jubilee of the foundation of the Sultanieh Geographical Society of Egypt. It soon developed into a plan for the revival of the old international congresses held in different countries before the war, being regarded by its promoters in Rome (where the tenth congress was held) as the eleventh of the series. Circulars of invitation were issued on this basis by a committee formed in Egypt, but it was pointed out that by the decision of the International Research Council, formed shortly after the end of the war, the constitution of

the old Congress was abrogated, and that the duty of organizing future congresses should rest with the International Geographical Union formed in Brussels in July 1922 in affiliation with the International Research Council. A somewhat delicate situation thus arose which has since been happily regularized by the adhesion of Egypt to the International Research Council, and the issue of new circulars of invitation under the Statutes of the International Geographical Union. The congress will take place (probably from April 2 to 12, 1925) under the patronage of King Fuad I, and will be organized by the Royal Geographical Society of Egypt, from whose members the organizing committee is chosen. The Secretariat and inquiry office are installed in the premises of that society in the Public Works Ministry Garden, and a handbook of information has been issued giving details of the arrangements so far made. Tickets of membership will be issued at a charge of £1, and will confer all benefits in the way of reduction of fares by steamer and railway, etc. The meetings will take place at various centers in Cairo and Alexandria. A provisional program has been drawn up, covering the various principal branches of geography and their subdivisions, and a scheme of excursions arranged, the two principal being, (1) that from Cairo to Aswân or Wadi Halfa, (2) that on the Gulf of Suez and the Red Sea. The handbook includes useful general information on Egyptian matters, together with a geological map (showing routes of excursions) and a plan of Cairo.

EXHIBITION OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION AT WASHINGTON

AN exhibition of new scientific apparatus, research methods and results of scientific research is being planned as an important feature of the fifth Washington meeting of the American Association and associated organizations. Previous efforts of the association in this direction have been increasingly successful and the Washington exhibition promises to surpass earlier ones in value and interest to research workers and teachers in all fields of science. Manufacturers of scientific apparatus and supplies, and publishers of scientific books, are showing a renewed and increased interest, and many firms will be represented. It is hoped that individual investigators will also take an active part, exhibiting new devices, improvements in apparatus and methods, specially fine preparations, etc., thus giving to the whole undertaking a personal element that will be greatly appreciated. Members of the association and members of associated organizations are cordially invited and urged to help in this way. Those in charge of research laboratories are

¹ From *The Geographical Journal*.