

Cain; and for physical constants, Drs. Wiismore and Cain and Prof. Findlay. Dr. Cain's services have been secured for all three committees in view of his editorship of the publications of the Chemical Society. The other chemical societies have also appointed influential committees to deal with these same subjects, and the reports of these committees were considered at the Berlin congress last month. At this gathering thirteen societies having a total membership of 18,000 were represented. The next meeting of the Association is to be held in London in September, 1913, under the presidency of Sir Wm. Ramsay, when, in addition to the subjects already being dealt with, the question of the possibility of arriving at an international understanding with respect to editing and to the publication of abstracts will be considered.

In view of the overlap and duplication of publication now being carried on by several societies all doing the same kind of work, it will be seen that great need exists in the interests of chemical literature for making a serious effort towards centralisation. This can only be done by international co-operation, and it is to be hoped that some practical scheme may be developed as one result of the useful and valuable labours which the new Association has entered upon.

MR. JOHN GRAY.

WE announced with regret last week the death of Mr. John Gray, one of the examiners of the Patent Office, and well known for enthusiastic and painstaking efforts on behalf of anthropology. Mr. Gray was born at Strichen, Aberdeenshire, on January 9, 1854. He was educated at the Aberdeen Grammar School and at Edinburgh University, where he took the second prize in Prof. Fleeming Jenkin's class in 1873. He obtained the first Royal Exhibition at the Royal School of Mines, London, in 1875, and later received the associateship in metallurgy. He took his degree in Edinburgh in 1878, and entered the Patent Office in that year.

Mr. Gray made a study of many electrical problems, especially those bearing on electrical influence machines. He published a book on this subject, in which he traced the historical development of influence machines, and described such modern forms as those of Kelvin, Voss, Holtz, and Wimshurst. He was well known for his connection with physical anthropology, and took an active part in all recent efforts to secure its recognition by the State. He was elected treasurer of the Royal Anthropological Institute in 1904, and his efforts to improve the financial condition of that body were crowned with complete success. In 1904 he gave evidence before the Interdepartmental Committee on physical deterioration, and, in conjunction with the late Prof. Cunningham, submitted a scheme for a national anthropometric survey.

At the request of the Royal Anthropological Institute, Mr. Gray organised a deputation to meet the late Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the

object of which was to impress on the Government the necessity of carrying out the recommendation of the Physical Deterioration Committee with regard to a national survey. He designed a number of novel anthropometric instruments, some of which are extensively used by anthropologists, and for which he received a diploma of honour at the Franco-British Exhibition.

Mr. Gray took a deep interest in his native county, and, in conjunction with Mr. J. F. Tocher, conducted a series of anthropometric measurements on the population of Aberdeenshire from 1895 to 1899, the results of which were published in the *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, and in the *Transactions of the Buchan Club*, of which he was president in 1899. In 1901-1902, along with Mr. Tocher, he advocated a survey of the colour characters of school children of Scotland, and joined the Scottish committee on its formation, the other members being Sir William Turner, K.C.B., F.R.S., Prof. R. W. Reid, and Mr. Tocher. Both he and Mr. Tocher published memoirs bearing on the results of the survey from different viewpoints. Mr. Gray's memoir appeared in the *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* (Vol. 37, 1907). In this memoir Mr. Gray gave his views on the distribution of colour in Scotland, and displayed local groupings by a system of contour lines in a series of maps.

Mr. Gray's many contributions to anthropological literature include the following:— "Measurements on Papuan Skulls" (*J.R.A.I.*, 1901), "Indian Coronation Contingent" (*B.A. Report*, 1902), "England before the English" (*B.A. Report*, 1906), "A New Instrument for Determining the Colour of the Hair, Eyes and Skin" (*Man*, 1908), and "Who Built the British Stone Circles?" (*NATURE*, December 24, 1908). Mr. Gray is survived by a widow and one daughter.

NOTES.

THE French Ambassador took the chair on May 3 at the first of the series of four lectures being delivered by M. Henri Poincaré on mathematical subjects at the University of London: the two remaining lectures will be given on May 10 and 11. M. Poincaré, who was born in 1854, was educated at the lycée at Nancy, entered the *École Polytechnique*, being placed first on the list, and on leaving it became a Government mining engineer (*ingénieur des mines*), this employment being reserved for those who occupy very high places at the *examen de sortie* of the school. He exercised this profession only for a short time; in 1881 he was appointed to a lectureship in pure mathematics at the Sorbonne, and when M. Lippmann exchanged the chair of mathematical physics for a chair of experimental physics, M. Poincaré succeeded him. Later, on the death of M. Tisserand, M. Poincaré succeeded to the chair of mathematical astronomy. He has made contributions of the greatest importance to pure and applied mathematics, astronomy, and mathematical physics, and also to scientific