

averse to making further radical change, or constructive legislation, before attaining much more knowledge of the natural history of the marine economic animals than we yet possess.

The weakest part of the Report is that dealing with the better education of the fishermen. It does not appear to us that the Committee has received sufficient evidence on this question, or that it made itself acquainted with the educational machinery already in existence, or even that it properly considered the admirable memorandum on this subject by the Board of Education, which is printed in the report. The Committee distinguishes between the instruction that is necessary for the inshore, and that which is necessary for the deep-sea fishermen, a distinction which it will be impossible to maintain in practice, since one class is continually being recruited from the other. The deep-sea man urgently requires instruction in working methods of navigation—much more instruction than is at present recognised except by the Board of Trade, which tends continually to raise the standard of its Fishery Examinations. The inshore man requires a knowledge of his technique, net-making, fish-curing, and the management of small boats at sea, for instance, and how this is to be acquired except by actually practising it under the instruction of older men we do not know. Both kinds of men require above all a much sounder elementary education than they at present possess—without this the further instruction will surely fail in its object. The Committee recommends supplementary courses in the elements of navigation, the natural history of the sea (without biology!), practical ropework, sail-mending, signalling, carpentry and metalwork, all for boys attending sea-board primary schools. It recommends evening continuation school courses in the same subjects, but with the addition of fish-curing for girls, and motor-mechanics for boys, these without restriction of age. It recommends occasional lectures in fishing centres in order that a knowledge of the natural history of fishes might be imparted, that the necessity for restrictions on methods of fishing might be explained, and that the resentment of fishermen to these restrictions on their operations might be obviated.

It is difficult, and there is no space at our disposal, to consider these recommendations seriously. They do not matter since the whole organisation of the elementary and technical education of fishermen, inshore and offshore, is at present being actively developed by the Board of Education and by the local authorities, and will work itself out in a satisfactory manner all the sooner under the stimulus of a reorganisation of the fishery authorities.

Apart from these defects (due obviously to the desire of the Committee to report without delay, and to the fact that its primary concern was with industrial development) the report is a statesman-like piece of work. We cannot help feeling that now or never is the time for the reorganisation of the fishery authorities on one or other of the

alternative lines suggested in the evidence, and for the strengthening and adequate equipment of the Central Department. It is also sincerely to be hoped that investigation in the widest sense, scientific and statistical and industrial, will at all steps accompany this reorganisation in order that the failures of past fishery legislation may be avoided.

J. J.

AUSTRALIAN MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

AS August draws nearer the organisation of the first Australian meeting of the British Association is gradually approaching completion. The overseas party will number, roughly, 350, and will for the most part leave England at the end of June or the beginning of July. The Blue Funnel liner *Ascanius* is to convey a considerable proportion of the advance party for Western Australia, while the main body of the visitors will leave later in the Aberdeen liner *Euripides* (on her maiden voyage), and the Orient mailboat *Orvieta*. The latter will take on board at Fremantle the advance party, and will arrive at Adelaide on the same day as the *Euripides*, viz., August 8. Other lines and other routes will bring small detachments of members.

A special arrangement has been completed with the Customs Department in Australia for the speedy handling of luggage at ports of entry. Clearance will be effected very rapidly of all baggage certified to contain only personal effects. Members bringing with them anything subject to taxation will be required to make the usual statements and payments.

The matter of overland conveyance in Australia of the overseas party is one of not inconsiderable difficulty. To the lively satisfaction of the Federal Council and the various committees controlling arrangements, it was decided at a conference of the Premiers of the different States, held at the beginning of April, that the hospitality of the several State railways should be offered to all visiting members without distinction. The desire is very strong in Australia that there shall be the least possible amount of distinction made between the various members of the visiting party. Where differential treatment does come in, it is simply because the numbers in the party put equal treatment beyond the ability, though not the wishes, of Australia.

The Federal Handbook, a volume of 600 pages, is now published and about to be distributed to the visiting party by the High Commissioner for the Commonwealth prior to the party's departure. The book is the work of leading authorities of the country, and neither trouble nor money has been spared to make it worthy of the occasion of its issue. It is the intention of the Commonwealth Government to present a copy not only to each visiting member of the Association, but also to each member of its General Committee.

State handbooks, supplementary to the larger and more general work, are practically all com-

pleted, and will shortly be made available in England. Western Australia and Tasmania have decided, at a later stage than the other States, also to issue suitable books, but these will probably not be distributed before the departure of the party.

As the full programme of the meeting is still subject to amendment, it may be withheld for the present. The presidential address will be divided between Melbourne and Sydney, and the sectional presidential addresses will be distributed in the following way:—

Adelaide: Geography and Agriculture (part i.).

Melbourne: Mathematics and Physics, Chemistry, Zoology, Economics and Statistics, Physiology (part i.).

Sydney: Geology, Engineering, Anthropology, Botany, and Education.

Brisbane: Physiology (part ii.) and Agriculture (part ii.).

For ordinary business the sections will meet only in Sydney and Melbourne. Australian papers will occupy one-third of the available time in all sections, except those dealing with geology, zoology, geography, anthropology and botany, in which the proportion will be one-half. Perhaps the most important of all the local contributions will be an account by Dr. Douglas Mawson of the scientific results of the recent Australian expedition to Antarctica. Dr. Mawson is generously postponing his announcement until this meeting: it will add a very distinctively Australian element to the proceedings of several sections, particularly of that concerned with geography.

Citizens' lectures are being undertaken in each centre, either by the Workers' Educational Association, Trades-Hall or University Extension Board, or a joint committee of two or more of these bodies. The following lectures and discourses are to be delivered during the meeting:

Perth, W.A.: July 28, Why we investigate the ocean, Prof. W. A. Herdman; July 31, Stars and their movements, Prof. A. S. Eddington; August 2, The primitive methods of making fire, and their survival for ceremonial purposes, H. Balfour; August 3, The electrical action of the human heart, Dr. A. D. Waller. *Kalgoorlie*: School inspection: a review and retrospect, or Mining education in England, C. A. Buckmaster. *Adelaide*: August 10, The æther of space, Sir Oliver J. Lodge; August 11, Ancient hunters, Prof. W. J. Sollas. *Melbourne*: August 17, Mimicry, Prof. E. B. Poulton; August 18, The Greenwich Observatory, Dr. F. W. Dyson. *Sydney*: August 21, Primitive man, Prof. G. Elliot Smith; August 24, Atoms and electrons, Sir Ernest Rutherford. *Brisbane*: August 28, The materials of life, Prof. H. E. Armstrong; Wireless Telegraphy, Prof. G. W. O. Howe; August 31, The place of physiology in general education, Sir E. A. Schäfer. Public lectures (to which members of the association are not admitted as such) will also be delivered as follows:—*Adelaide*: "Saving and Spending," Prof. E. C. K. Gonner. *Melbourne*: "Brown Earth and Bright Sunshine," Prof. B. Moore; "The Making of a Big Gun," Dr. W. Rosenhain. *Sydney*: "Comets," Prof. H. H. Turner; "Clocks," Sir H. H. Cunyngame. *Brisbane*: "The Decorative Art of Papua," Dr. A. C. Haddon.

Excursions will form an exceedingly important part of the meeting. In Sydney, for example, half the total available time is devoted to them. With the exception of the special trips in Western Australia and Tasmania, and to Broken Hill, members will not be asked before their departure to make any selection. On arrival at each centre, however, they will be requested to fill in a form stating in order their preferences for particular excursions. A definite number of visitors will have been arranged for on each excursion, and allotment will be made on the basis of the preferences submitted. With the possible exception of a few of the more lengthy trips, it may now be taken for granted that no charges will be made upon excursions to members of the overseas party.

The fulfilment of the promise to extend private hospitality to most of the visitors in each centre is already assured. To the committees dealing with this matter, and in fact to all concerned with the organisation of the meeting, the high and increasing interest which is being taken by the general public in Australia is a source of very great satisfaction. An enthusiastic and successful meeting is certain.

NOTES.

WE greatly regret to see the announcement of the death on Saturday, May 23, in his seventy-fifth year, of Dr. P. H. Pye-Smith, F.R.S., lately vice-chancellor of the University of London and consulting physician to Guy's Hospital.

THE death, at the age of seventy-five years, is announced in the issue of *Science* for May 15, of Prof. Newton H. Winchell, formerly State geologist of Minnesota and professor of mineralogy and geology at the University of Minnesota.

INVITATIONS have been issued by the president of the Royal Society, chairman of the General Board of the National Physical Laboratory, to meet the board at the laboratory on Friday, June 19, when the various departments will be open and apparatus will be on view.

THE sixth informal spring foray of the British Mycological Society will be held in the Forest of Dean from Friday, May 29, to Tuesday, June 2. Daily forays will be made, from the Saturday to the Tuesday inclusive, and the various places to be visited will be selected on the previous evening.

THE council of the Institution of Electrical Engineers has appointed Mr. W. Duddell, F.R.S., Mr. F. Bailey, Mr. K. Edgcumbe, Mr. Haydn T. Harrison, and Prof. J. T. Morris as delegates to the British National Committee of the International Illumination Commission, and will contribute equally with the Institution of Gas Engineers towards the expenses of the committee.

AN exhibition of photographs by Mr. A. Radclyffe Dugmore, the African traveller and author of many works on photographing big game in their native haunts, is being held at the house of the Royal Photo-