

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION MEETING
IN MANCHESTER.

THE meeting of the British Association in Manchester will provide a busy week for those who choose to avail themselves of the opportunities provided for scientific discussion and visits to places of special interest. As previously announced, the long-distance excursions that old members are accustomed to on the afternoon of the Saturday and on the last Wednesday of the meeting will not be found on the programme, but the executive committee has arranged for a large number of visits to the principal municipal undertakings, works, and warehouses, which should prove to be of exceptional interest. Most of these visits will be made in the afternoon, and will not therefore interfere with the important work of the sections. It is difficult to select from the list any one that may be regarded as especially noteworthy because there is so much variety offered by the great industrial community of which Manchester is the centre, and an appeal to many different interests will be made. But as the Manchester Ship Canal is sometimes regarded as one of the wonders of the world, it is probable that the visit to the Manchester docks and canal will be one of the most attractive features. This visit will take place on the afternoon of Friday, September 10, and the party will be limited to one hundred. The Ship Canal Company has kindly provided a special steamer for the visitors, and arrangements will be made for the inspection of all the principal engineering features of this great undertaking.

The important works of the Manchester and of the Salford electricity departments will be shown to small parties in the course of the three working days of the meeting, and opportunities will be afforded for members and associates to visit the corporation gas works, water works, and sewage disposal works. Of the visits to the works of the principal Manchester industries that to the Pilkington Tile and Pottery Co. at Clifton Junction will probably be one of the most interesting; but the most ambitious so far as distance is concerned is the proposed visit to the soap works of Messrs. Lever Bros. at Port Sunlight on Thursday, September 9.

Other visits that may be specially referred to are to the works of the cotton spinners, of several large electrical machinery manufacturing companies, of the great Manchester warehouses, of the hat manufacturers of Stockport, of the calico-printers, of the packing warehouses, etc.

In connection with the special work of the sections several excursions on a small scale have been arranged. Thus, Section C (Geology) will adjourn in the afternoons for visits to places of geological interest in the immediate neighbourhood for field demonstrations of Dr. Hickling's paper on the geology of Manchester, and there will be a longer excursion arranged for the Saturday afternoon. Section D (Zoology) will adjourn to the zoological laboratories on Thursday afternoon for exhibits and demonstrations of original work that

has been conducted or is in progress in the university. Section E (Geography) proposes an afternoon excursion into Derbyshire. Section H (Anthropology) proposes a visit to the Roman camp at Ribchester, on which occasion Sir F. F. Adam will preside. For Section K (Botany) a series of interesting demonstrations in the botanical laboratories of the university are being arranged; and Section L (Educational Science) has arranged for two visits to educational institutions, one, on Thursday afternoon, to the Kindergarten Training College in Whalley Range, when Sir William Mather will entertain the party to tea, and the other to the school for feeble-minded children at Sandlebridge.

On Wednesday evening the Lord Mayor of Manchester will hold a reception in the Manchester School of Technology from 8 to 8.30, after which members and associates will be able to inspect the workrooms, machinery, and appliances of the institution.

Every effort is being made by the local executive committee to ensure the success of the meeting, and although it cannot be expected that the numbers will be as large as they would have been in normal times, there is every prospect of a good attendance of men of science and of important work being done.

ART AND CRAFT IN FISHING.¹

IN recent years the contemplative man seems to have changed his nature, to judge from some of the books which he gives to the world. Time was when he was content just to go fishing, with the simple object of catching fish. But now his demeanour is more that of a man who is setting out on a serious piece of scientific work, and, though he has not quite lost what Francis Francis used to call "a kind of prejudice for a brace of fish in the creel," he is mighty particular as to how that brace of fish got there. Should he, so to say, have been overtaken in inadvertency and have decoyed one of them in a manner not permitted to the elect, his conscience will know many pangs, and likely his tongue will begin the story with apology and end with explanation. There is no longer pride in a fish just as a fish. The modern achievement is a fish caught on a female olive. The same fish caught on an Alexandra would be like a shot fox; for the angler has become a much improved and superior person, and (may we confess it?) at times a little difficult to live with.

His literature, however, has certainly gained in interest, because it can no longer be said, as it used to be said, that there is nothing new to be written about fishing. The mere discovery of the female olive brought a whole new world swimming into one's ken. And since then there have been

¹ (1) "Fly-Fishing: Some New Arts and Mysteries." By J. C. Mottram. Pp. xii+472. (London: Field and Queen (Horace Cox), Ltd., n.d.) Price 5s. net.

(2) "The Complete Science of Fly Fishing and Spinning." By Fred. G. Shaw. Pp. xiii+432. (Published by the Author, Neville Court, Abbey Road, N.W., 1914.) Price 21s.