

but is more economically dealt with by a division of work. The most prominent example of this type is the arrangement made between eighteen observatories to form a photographic chart of the heavens. The organisation dealing with the "International Catalogue of Scientific Literature" may also be included in this group. In the fourth group is placed the large number of congresses called together by workers in some one department of science, and mainly intended to foster friendly personal relationships between those who pursue similar aims in different countries. There is, finally, in a group by itself, the International Association of Academies, which aims at co-ordinating the activities of international undertakings, and organises work for which special permanent bodies do not exist and are not required. The council of the Royal Society will submit the following questions as subjects for discussion at the forthcoming conference:—(1) Is it desirable for the Allied nations to establish organisations for scientific co-operation among themselves? (2) If this be agreed upon, what should be the particular forms of organisation to be aimed at in geodesy, seismology, meteorology, etc.? (3) Should particular academies be asked to submit proposals on those undertakings in which they have taken the leading part, such as: (a) The Académie des Sciences on the Commission Métrique and the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures; (b) The Royal Society on the International Catalogue of Scientific Literature? (4) What representations should be addressed to the Governments with regard to those organisations which have hitherto received their support? The conference at present is intended to deal only with scientific subjects, but similar questions no doubt also arise on the literary side.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

We learn from the *Times* that Prof. J. J. Findlay, professor of education in the University of Manchester, has accepted the invitation of the Y.M.C.A. Universities' Committee to become its director of education in Salonika, where it is hoped that an extensive system of classes and lectures will be developed during the autumn and winter. Prof. Findlay will leave for Salonika in September. To the work on the lines of communication in France which Sir Henry Hadow has undertaken for the committee will now be added similar service among the British troops in Italy.

THE governors of the Royal Technical College, Glasgow, have appointed Dr. C. H. Desch to the chair of metallurgy in the college, rendered vacant by the resignation of Prof. A. Campion. Dr. Desch received his scientific training at the Finsbury Technical College, at Würzburg University, and at University College, London, under the late Sir William Ramsay. After eight years' practical experience as chemist in a chemical works, he was for five years research assistant to the professor of metallurgy in King's College, London; for the last ten years he has been Graham Young lecturer in metallurgical chemistry in Glasgow University.

THE Education Act received the Royal Assent on August 8, and is now, therefore, on the Statute-book. The following is a summary of the main changes in the provision of public education in England and Wales as given in the *Times* of August 9:—(1) No exemptions from attendance at school shall be granted to any child between the ages of five and fourteen. (2) Local authorities may increase the age of compulsion by by-law to fifteen. (3) Compulsory day continuation schools shall be established for all young persons,

unless they are being otherwise educated, up to the age of sixteen, and after seven years from the appointed day up to the age of eighteen. (4) The minimum number of hours of attendance at continuation schools shall be 280, and after seven years 320. (5) No child under twelve shall be employed. (6) No child between twelve and fourteen shall be employed for more than two hours on any Sunday, or on any school day before the close of school hours, or on any day before 6 a.m. or after 8 p.m. Exceptions may be made by by-law, provided that no child may be employed for more than one hour before school, and if so employed, for more than one hour in the afternoon. (7) Local authorities may make provision for the supply or maintenance of holiday or school camps, centres for physical training, school baths, swimming baths, and other facilities for social and physical training. (8) Provision is made for the medical inspection and treatment of pupils in secondary and continuation schools. (9) Local authorities may establish nursery schools for children between the ages of two and five. (10) Special schools are to be established for physically defective children. (11) Fees in public elementary schools are abolished.

REPRESENTATIVES of the various Government Departments at Washington have recently held a number of conferences to consider, in response to the numerous requests of school officials, what American schools should do to render the utmost service of which they are capable during the war emergency. The conclusions and recommendations resulting from these conferences are now published in the form of a leaflet for distribution to American teachers by the Washington Bureau of Education. So far as elementary schools are concerned, the representatives decided that there appears to be nothing in the present or prospective war emergency to justify curtailment in any respect of the sessions of these schools, or of the education of boys and girls under fourteen years of age, and nothing which should serve as an excuse for interference with the progressive development of the school system. It is suggested, however, that school activities with an educational value might be introduced, designed to connect the schools with the ideals of service and self-sacrifice actuating the American people. In the case of secondary schools it is suggested that much valuable service could be rendered by selecting and training boys to assist in meeting the need for agricultural labour. It would be helpful in industrial communities if, for secondary-school pupils above fourteen, definite courses could be introduced looking towards a co-operative half-time plan of school attendance and employment throughout the year. Boys and girls should be urged. American teachers are being told, to remain in school to the completion of the high-school course, and in increasing numbers to enter upon college and university courses, especially in technical and scientific lines, to meet the great need for trained men and women.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

EDINBURGH.

Royal Society; July 8.—Dr. J. Horne, president, in the chair.—Dr. R. Kidston and Prof. W. F. Lang: Old Red Sandstone plants, showing structure, from the Rhynie chert bed, Aberdeenshire. Part ii. Additional notes on *Rhynia Gwynne-Vaughani*, Kidst. and Lang; *Rhynia major*, n.sp.; and *Hornea Lignieri*, n.gen. et sp. In this paper the species of *Rhynia*, which were included under one name in a former account, are distinguished as *R. Gwynne-Vaughani* and *R. major*. The latter plant is larger in all its parts, and lacks the adventitious branching found in *R. Gwynne-Vaughani*; but its morphology