

## The British Association at Hull.

THE British Association meetings are now in progress, and notwithstanding a slight difficulty which threatened to arise in obtaining rooms for the unusual influx of visitors, this has been removed and things are running smoothly. The Local Committee has endeavoured to improve the appearance of the city as much as possible by elaborate signposts, and metal signs on the electric standards, indicating the positions of the various meeting rooms and sectional lecture halls. Thus the usual appearance of a town visited by the British Association being transformed into a bill-posting station, has been avoided. Similarly, in the Reception Room and in other places, are gaily coloured artistic banners and signs in profusion, in addition to which the Parks Committee has made the rooms gay with plants and blooms.

Various corporations and public bodies in the east of Yorkshire have risen to the occasion, and, with the co-operation of the North-Eastern Railway Company, an elaborate system of special trains has been arranged to convey the members to different parts of this attractive county.

The Corporation of Scarborough is entertaining four hundred members; the Yorkshire Philosophical Society is entertaining the same number of members in the York Museum, where an official welcome will be given by the Lord Mayor; the Corporation of Harrogate is also entertaining four hundred members; Bridlington is entertaining 250, and Beverley 100. These are in addition to arrangements made in Hull itself, which include a river trip to Spurn Point in the s.s. *Brocklesby*, kindly lent by the Great Central Railway Company, on which occasion the members will be entertained by the Local Committee.

There is also a garden party in Hymers College grounds (the old Botanical Gardens), where the members will be entertained by the Hull Literary and Philosophical Society, the Local Committee, and the Governors of the College.

Various firms in Hull and district (Messrs. Reckitt and Sons, the Humber Portland Cement Company, Earle's Cement Company, The British Oil and Cake Mills, Needler's Confectionery Works, the Olympia Oil Mill, Selby, and the Hull Fishing Vessel Owners' Association) are showing parties round their respective places and providing refreshment, etc.

On account of the wealth of suitable lecture and committee rooms, the work of the various sections is running smoothly, and the new Guildhall with its fine reception room, banqueting hall, etc., makes admirable headquarters, while the reception room is in easy access of the various offices placed at the disposal of the general and local officers of the association.

An experiment has been tried in the provision of an artistic numbered badge for each member, for the purpose of identification, and also for admission to the various functions of the association in place of, or in addition to, the familiar membership ticket, which, like many innovations for the Hull meeting, has been made a convenient size.

The Hull Tramways Committee has granted free tram-rides to the wearers of badges, to the great convenience of the visitors.

T. S.

## REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

A number of important matters is referred to in the report of the council presented to the meeting of the general committee on September 6. Sir Ernest Rutherford was nominated by the council as president of the Association for the meeting to be held at Liverpool next year.

During the year covered by the report, the Association received from Sir Charles Parsons the generous gift of 10,000*l.* War Stock for general purposes and also a legacy of 450*l.* from the late Mr. T. W. Backhouse. A very welcome gift was one of 75*l.* from Mrs. Sidney Brown to form "the John Perry's Guest Fund" for use by the general treasurer in case of emergency connected with guests of the Association. There is frequent need for financial help such as a fund of this kind may supply, and it is to be hoped that other benefactors will be forthcoming to increase the modest amount now available for this purpose. Certain it is that no more appropriate memorial to the late treasurer of the Association, Prof. John Perry, could be established than such a fund would afford. On account of the expanding activities of the Association, professional men who are not members are often invited to give addresses or read papers to one or other of the sections, but under present conditions sectional secretaries have no power to pay even out-of-pocket expenses to such men or offer hospitality to them. The least the Association should do in such cases is to pay railway fares and entertain the special visitors as guests.

Provision of a similar kind is made by the establishment of the "British Association Exhibitions" now offered to students not above the standing of B.Sc., nominated by the senate of each of twenty universities and university colleges, and covering the railway fares of such students and their membership if not already regular members. The Local Executive Committee at Hull has kindly supplemented this aid by an offer of financial support and hospitality for such nominees. What is wanted now is to give power to each organising committee of the sections to offer like facilities to two or three leading workers in particular fields to attend meetings for the purpose of expressing their views on aspects of science seen more distinctly from outside the scientific world than within it.

The council has made some important recommendations with regard to the Conference of Delegates and the Corresponding Societies Committee. It has been agreed that the conference at Hull should consider, in the first place, what steps should be taken to induce local societies to group themselves round local (*i.e.* district) sub-centres for the interchange of information and for the more economical publication of the results of research.

The Corresponding Societies Committee is to prepare a general survey of local scientific societies, including information as to existing federations and local unions.

Mr. W. Whitaker has been nominated as president of the Conference at the Hull Meeting.

The following new members of council are nominated: Rt. Hon. Lord Bledisloe, Dr. W. E. Hoyle, and Mr. A. G. Tansley, leaving two vacancies to be filled by the general committee without nomination by the council.