

The Glasgow Meeting of the British Association.

LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS.

THE preliminary organisation of the British Association's impending visit to Glasgow is being greatly facilitated by the very unusual circumstance that two out of the three local officials—Prof. Magnus McLean and Sir John S. Samuel—held office at the last meeting of the Association in Glasgow twenty-seven years ago: Sir John Samuel was indeed acting secretary then as he is now.

An outstanding feature of the last Glasgow meeting was the excellent and comprehensive handbook in three volumes prepared in connexion with it, and still in use, so far at least as its biological sections are concerned, as a standard work of reference. The possibility of anything on a similar scale for this year was unfortunately ruled out by the greatly increased cost of book production, but a handbook on a small scale, composed of lightly written articles on local topics likely to be of interest to scientific visitors, has been prepared under the editorship of Prof. Graham Kerr, and will be distributed to members at the commencement of the meeting along with topographical and geological maps of the district.

In one respect, namely, as a centre for excursions, Glasgow is probably without a serious rival amongst all the cities in which the British Association holds its meetings, and the visitor who has only the Saturday available may find himself seriously embarrassed by the richness of choice before him. A detailed programme of excursions has been prepared, and prospective attenders at the Glasgow meeting will do well to peruse this as soon as it is received and to take the precaution of indicating at once to the local secretaries their order of preference as between the various excursions. This will facilitate the organisation of the various parties, which are for the most part limited to a certain number.

Another outstanding attraction of the Glasgow meeting will be the opportunity it affords of paying visits of inspection to industrial concerns on a large scale, such as shipyards, engineering works, iron and steel works, printing works, biscuit factories, etc., the owners of many of which have kindly offered facilities for viewing their works. To the scientific visitor it is of remarkable interest to witness the workings of, say, a modern biscuit factory: in the multiplicity and specialisation of its parts, all functioning in smooth co-operation with one another, it irresistibly recalls to his mind the impression of a highly evolved living organism.

Glasgow is a city of wide distances, and although the official business of the Association will be concentrated in an unusually small area, visits to works and other sights will involve a considerable amount of travelling. The free transport granted by the Corporation upon their trams, buses, and subway will consequently be much appreciated; for river transport—to make it possible to view

the harbour of Glasgow with its fringe of shipyards—the Clyde Trustees have arranged that one or other of their vessels *Comet* and *Clyde* shall leave the Broomielaw at 2.30 on most days during the meeting, for a two-hour voyage of inspection.

In the Queen's Dock on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, Sept. 9, 10, and 11, the Scottish Fishery Board's research vessel *Explorer* will be open for inspection by members of the Association interested in oceanography or marine biology.

As befits the city the ancient motto of which reads, "Let Glasgow flourish by the Preaching of the Word," there will be ample opportunities open to the churchgoer on Sunday, Sept. 9. The official sermon will be preached by Dr. MacLean Watt, minister of Glasgow, in the ancient Cathedral Church of St. Mungo. At St. Mary's Cathedral a large congregation will doubtless be attracted by Father Waggett, while in numerous other churches belonging to different denominations the sermon will relate more or less directly to the British Association and its work.

The daily interval between the afternoon session of the various sections and the evening functions is being taken advantage of by various public bodies for providing hospitality in the form of 'At Homes.' Amongst these are the Royal Technical College, where visitors will have the opportunity of inspecting one of the most important establishments in Britain devoted to technical education; the great Training College at Jordanhill with its magnificent buildings and grounds; the Roman Catholic Training College, Dowanhill, conducted by the Sisters of Notre Dame, and of high repute alike for its efficiency and for the quality of its research output; the College of Domestic Science; the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons; the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders; and the Trades House—an ancient incorporation which does noble work behind the scenes in secretly extending help to the less fortunate.

A large proportion of the well-to-do citizens of Glasgow are away from home during early September, and this is likely to be a limiting factor as regards private hospitality, but of more public hospitality there will be much. Glasgow has a number of admirable clubs, and the majority of these are generously admitting non-resident members of the British Association as honorary members for the period of the meeting, and the same applies to numerous golf clubs in the neighbourhood.

The importance should again be emphasised of members who propose to attend the Glasgow meeting sending in their names at once if they have not already done so, alike as a help to those who are organising the meeting and as a precautionary measure against finding themselves crowded out from excursions or other functions which they may desire to attend.