

every four years. The last meeting of the Ornithological Congress in England was at the Imperial Institute, London, in 1905, with Dr. R. B. Sharpe as president. In 1910 it was held in Berlin, and it was proposed to hold the 1915 Congress at Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, but in the meantime the War broke out and no further Congress was held until 1926, when, mainly through the efforts of Dr. Ernst Hartet, keeper at Tring Museum, it was resumed at Copenhagen. Preliminary arrangements have already been made for the 1934 Congress at Oxford, and the Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain, of the British Ornithologists' Union, has been elected honorary secretary. Dr. P. R. Lowe, of the British Museum, has been elected chairman of the executive committee, which includes Lord Rothschild, Lord Scone, Dr. C. B. Ticehurst, Dr. Sclater, and Messrs. Stuart-Baker and H. F. Witherby, president of the British Ornithologists' Union.

DELEGATES to the Congress will include the leading ornithologists from all parts of the world, particularly Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, Brazil, Japan, India, the United States, Canada, and all European countries. The problem of oil pollution of the sea, whereby hundreds of sea-birds, including many rare species, are annually being destroyed especially on the North Atlantic shores, will be a prominent feature of the section on bird protection, while the practice of 'ringing' as a means of tracing bird migrations will also be discussed. One of the most important items, however, is the project for founding an Institute of Ornithology at the University of Oxford, which it is hoped to develop out of the existing scheme of research in economic ornithology at Oxford, the grant for which expires in September, 1933. The new institute is intended to be a national centre for field ornithologists as the British Museum is for systematists. £8,000 is needed to run the Institute for a preliminary five years while steps are being taken to put it on a more permanent basis. An appeal will be made not only for funds but also for gifts of books, field notes and photographs, etc., for equipping it. It is also proposed to arrange at least one long excursion to study British bird life, and South Wales will probably be chosen as the area to visit though several shorter excursions are to be made. The lectures and papers are to be given in English, French, German and Italian.

#### New Buildings of the University of London

UNDER the title "The New Buildings for the University of London" (The Dryden Press) Mr. T. Ll. Humberstone has published a 'symposium', in which a contribution to NATURE (July 9, 1932, p. 49) is reprinted, followed by an explanation of the plan of the proposed buildings by the architect (illustrated), and expressions of opinion from architects and laymen and a supplementary note by Mr. Humberstone himself. It will be remembered that Mr. Humberstone in his original article, after a brief summary of past difficulties and controversy connected with the accommodation of the University, expressed certain

misgivings in regard to the suitability of the proposed buildings, especially in relation to the provision for scientific research. These views are now supplemented by critical comments from others. Prof. S. D. Adshead, professor of town planning in the University, for example, remarks that "if only on account of its rigidity—the system must fail". In his supplementary note, Mr. Humberstone reverts to his previous contention that the University buildings should make provision for an institute for scientific research, pointing out the unsuitability of the scheme, as well as the unnecessary expense involved, for the purpose, and discusses the bearing of the conception of the University as a federation upon the development of facilities for research as part of the equipment and organisation of the University, as distinct from its constituent colleges.

#### San Diego Museum

LOCAL patriotism flourishes perennially in the United States. As part of a campaign "Know your San Diego", Mr. Malcom J. Rogers, curator in anthropology in the Museum of San Diego, has recently broadcast a lecture, in which he gave an account of the origin and growth of the collections. The nucleus of the museum was an exhibit at the Panama-California Exposition of 1915-16. The organisers of the exhibition, in consultation with officials of the U.S. National Museum, spent some three years in getting together a collection to illustrate the origin, racial types and culture of man. Expeditions were sent to Asia, Africa, South America, the Pacific and the Arctic for material and the collections then made were housed in the only permanent building in the exhibition, the California Quadrangle, which is still its name, as it had been intended from the first that what, it was hoped, would be a unique educational exhibit, should "not be a thing for the moment, but an enduring institution for the benefit of the people of San Diego and its visitors". At the close of the exhibition the collections were transferred to a permanent Museum Association in trust for the people of San Diego. Dr. Edgar L. Hewett, of the Archaeological Institute of America, who had been responsible for this department during the exhibition, was made the first director of the Museum. Constant additions have been made to the collections, which are now so extensive that it is possible only to show the exhibits in rotation. They are arranged departmentally, to illustrate man's origin (by casts), physical types, and culture in the past and present. The archaeology of Central America and the Mayas is abundantly illustrated, the most striking and best-known buildings and monuments being represented by replicas. The pride of the Museum, however, is the collection from the south-western States and, more particularly, that from Southern California, the latter being unique and beyond question the most complete in existence.

#### Bird Life on Ailsa Craig

A REPORT on bird life on Ailsa Craig was submitted to Ayr County Council on May 30, the Earl of Glasgow presiding, following a communication from the