

NEWS and VIEWS

British Association: Annual Meeting

SIR HENRY TIZARD was installed as president of the British Association at a meeting held at Burlington House on January 9, when the Committees of Sections met to draft the outlines of their programmes for the forthcoming annual meeting, to be held this year during September 8-15 at Brighton. Emphasis will be given to scientific subjects which have a bearing on the economic crisis; a preliminary programme will be issued in the beginning of April.

The officers of the Association for the present year are as follow: *President*, Sir Henry Tizard; *General Treasurer*, M. G. Bennett; *General Secretaries*, Dr. Edward Hindle and Sir Richard Southwell; *Presidents of Sections*, Sir Lawrence Bragg (Physics and Mathematics), Prof. John Read (Chemistry), Dr. A. E. Trueman (Geology), Prof. H. Graham Cannon (Zoology), Lord Rennell of Rodd (Geography), Sir Hubert D. Henderson (Economics), Wing-Comm. T. R. Cave-Browne-Cave (Engineering), R. U. Sayce (Anthropology and Archaeology), Prof. H. Hartridge (Physiology), Prof. A. Rex Knight (Psychology), Prof. J. R. Matthews (Botany), W. O. Lester Smith (Education), Dr. G. Scott Robertson (Agriculture).

International Geological Congress

SIR JOHN ANDERSON has accepted the office of honorary president of the General Organising Committee for the eighteenth session of the International Geological Congress, which is to be held in Great Britain this summer, and will welcome the delegates and members at the first meeting of the General Assembly. Prof. H. H. Read, president of the Geological Society of London, has succeeded the late Sir Thomas Holland as president of the General Organising Committee and president-designate of the Congress. More than a thousand geologists from countries overseas are expected to attend the Congress; the total attendance, including British geologists, is likely to approach two thousand. Twenty-eight Governments and about 160 universities and scientific institutions have already accepted invitations to be represented by official delegates. The meetings of the Congress will be held during the period August 25-September 1 in the Royal Albert Hall and the lecture theatres of the Royal Geographical Society and the Imperial College of Science and Technology. Sir Edward Bailey and Prof. O. T. Jones will deliver special addresses on the structural history of Britain.

The list of subjects to be discussed at the sectional meetings of the Congress is as follows: (A) problems of geochemistry; (B) metasomatic processes in metamorphism; (C) rhythm in sedimentation; (D) geological results of applied geophysics; (E) geology of petroleum; (F) geology, paragenesis and reserves of the ores of lead and zinc; (G) geology of sea and ocean floors; (H) Pliocene - Pleistocene boundary; (J) faunal and floral facies and zonal correlation; (K) correlation of Continental vertebrate-bearing rocks; (L) earth movements and organic evolution; (M) other subjects. In addition, problems of African geology will be considered at open meetings of the Association des Services Géologiques Africains; and selected palaeontological topics will be discussed by the International Palaeontological Union. A series of meetings on the mineralogy and geology of clays will be organised in conjunction

with the Clay Minerals Group of the Mineralogical Society. In addition to the thirty-two geological excursions previously announced, five more excursions are being organised; two of these will visit East Anglia, one will visit Jersey, and two others will demonstrate the general geology of Scotland, and the hydrogeology of England and Wales. There will also be a series of day and half-day geological excursions. Full details of the excursion programme and of other arrangements for the Congress can be obtained from the General Secretaries, 18th Session International Geological Congress, Geological Survey and Museum, Exhibition Road, London, S.W.7.

International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences

THE third session of the International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (which met in London in 1934 and Copenhagen in 1938) is to be held under royal patronage at Brussels-Tervueren, during August 15-23, 1948. The president will be Prof. Ed. De Jonghe (University of Louvain); secretary, Prof. Frans M. Albrechts (University of Ghent, director of the Museum of the Belgian Congo); treasurer, Prof. Fr. Twiesselmann (University of Brussels, curator of the Royal Museum of Natural History). The subscription for full members is £2 2s.; for associates 200 Belgian francs. The Congress will meet in twenty-four sections, covering all branches of anthropological and ethnological research. Communications must be sent in typewritten synopsis, of not more than 200 words, to the Secretary before June 1; the full text and illustrations before July 1. Provision will be made for films and sound-records. There will be several exhibitions in connexion with the Congress; and excursions during August 24-28. Accommodation may be reserved either in the 'Cité Estudiantine' of the University of Brussels at 165 Belgian francs a day; or in hotels through Wagon-Lits-Cook, 17 Place de Brouckère, Brussels; approximate cost, room 100-200 Belgian francs; meals, 75-125 Belgian francs. Formal dress will not be required for any of the functions. The Organising Committee will endeavour to obtain currency facilities and reduced fares. Correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary, Musée du Congo Belge, Tervueren.

Embryology of Monsters

A RECENT issue of *Ciba Symposia*, a journal produced by a pharmaceutical firm, contains two informative articles on monstrosities in embryological development. The first, by Dr. Hamburger, professor of zoology in Washington University, St. Louis, is a general account of natural and experimentally induced maldevelopments. The second, by Dr. Wolfgang Born, of the Department of Fine Arts of Louisiana State University, traces the course of monstrosities, real and imaginary, as they appear in painting, sculpture and mythology. It is interesting that Dr. Born is a son of the Gustav Born who was one of the founders of experimental embryology, and one of whose main discoveries was that two halves of a divided amphibian embryo will fuse together if they are kept in apposition. It is widely believed that this finding was one of those brilliant outcomes of an accidental observation. In the course of Born's studies on regeneration, some tadpoles were halved just after hatching. To enable him to distinguish individual larvae on which he was working, he left a part of the skin of the back intact after