

EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

AN outline of plans for the eighteenth session of the International Geological Congress was given in *Nature*, August 7, p. 232. The proceedings lasted in all for a period of seven weeks during August and September. Much of the time was occupied by a series of thirty-seven long geological excursions, which visited important localities throughout Great Britain and eastern Ireland. Some 250 British geologists acted as organisers, directors and secretaries for these excursions and for an extensive series of additional short excursions centred on London. Despite indifferent weather, the excursion programme was extremely successful; it was clear that the excursion parties, which consisted predominantly of geologists from abroad, found interest and enjoyment in visiting the classic areas and type localities of the British Isles under the guidance of British specialists.

The formal and scientific meetings of the Congress, with an associated programme of receptions and entertainments, were held in South Kensington during August 25–September 1. The total membership of the session, including non-attending members, was more than 1,760; the total attendance of members and relatives was about sixteen hundred, including some nine hundred from overseas. Seventy-six different countries were represented; sixty-four Governments and 360 universities, societies and institutions sent official delegates.

This widely representative assembly provided the first full-scale opportunity for international geological discussion for eleven years—since the seventeenth session in Moscow; and throughout the Congress members made good use of the opportunity. The attendance at all the meetings and functions was very large. At times five sectional meetings, each with an attendance of some two hundred members, were simultaneously in progress. Audiences of nine hundred filled the lecture theatre of the Royal Geographical Society to hear special addresses by Prof. O. T. Jones and Sir Edward Bailey on "The Structural History of Britain". Colour films of the Mexican volcano Parícutin, presented by Dr. J. G. Reyna and Dr. F. H. Pough, and of the Virunga volcanoes of Africa, presented by Prof. T. W. Gevers, were shown twice because the same theatre could not hold at one time all who wished to see them. More than fourteen hundred members attended a reception by H.M. Government on the first day of the session, and a similar number were present at a reception by the Geological Society on August 31. Some six hundred official delegates and relatives were received by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of London on August 30, and many other receptions and entertainments were also successfully arranged. In addition to the formal items of the programme, members made full use for informal meeting and discussion of extensive lounge accommodation in the Geological Survey and Museum, which was the headquarters and registry of the Congress.

At the inaugural meeting in the Royal Albert Hall, Prof. H. H. Read, president of the Geological Society of London, was elected president of the Congress. Viscount Addison, Lord Privy Seal, welcomed the assembly on behalf of H.M. Government, and Sir John Anderson, honorary president of the General Organising Committee, explained how, under

the aegis of the Geological Society and with active Government support through the Geological Survey and Museum, professional and amateur geologists throughout Britain had worked in face of considerable difficulties to make the Congress a success. From speeches by the heads of Government delegations at the final meeting of the general assembly on September 1, and from much informal comment, it can be judged that the delegates and members were, in fact, well pleased and satisfied with the arrangements which had been made.

During the session, the Council of the Congress arranged for the reconstitution of many of its international commissions, the work of which had been interrupted during the War. A full account of the proceedings of the Council, and of the sectional meetings, to which some 350 papers were offered, will be published in the report of the Session, but at least twelve months must necessarily elapse before this can be issued. Meanwhile, summaries of the more important decisions of the Council, and of the sectional proceedings, will appear in forthcoming numbers of the *Geological Magazine*. Further articles will also appear in *Nature*.

The Congress accepted with pleasure an invitation from the Government of France to hold the nineteenth session in Algiers in 1952. At the same time it expressed its gratitude for an invitation from the Government of India, and it is hoped that the invitation to meet in India may be renewed at the nineteenth session.

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

THE Dean of the College of the Pharmaceutical Society announced at the 107th inaugural meeting on October 6 that the College is to be reconstituted on an independent basis and renamed the School of Pharmacy, University of London. It will be financed mainly from University funds.

This event marks the end of a phase of pharmaceutical education in Britain which was identified with the efforts of the members of the Pharmaceutical Society, who from their foundation in 1841 proceeded energetically to raise the status of their calling by promoting a modern system of professional education. Their aim was reaffirmed in the charter which the Society obtained in 1843, the objects of which included "the advancement of chemistry and pharmacy and the promotion of a uniform system of education". In pursuance of this policy the Society founded in 1842 what was at first known as the School of Pharmacy, the name being changed in 1926 to "The College of the Pharmaceutical Society".

The history of the School is a record of an attempt by a professional body to carry the burden of its own educational advancement, and all will join in paying tribute to the Society for success in that aim. The School from its inception has made outstanding contributions to our knowledge of pharmacy, chemistry, materia medica and medicine. The record of more than a century of endeavour is one which must redound to the credit of the Pharmaceutical Society. In 1842, with the prescience of enlightened educationists, the Society equipped and staffed a pioneer establishment on a scale which ultimately yielded rich dividends. A chemistry laboratory was established in that year which was one of the first of