

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON
TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

THE fourth meeting of the Congrès Internationale de l'Enseignement Technique, to be held this year in London, on the invitation of the Society of Arts and the Worshipful Companies of Mercers, Fishmongers, Drapers, Goldsmiths, Merchant Taylors, Vintners, Clothworkers, Leathersellers and Carpenters, will be opened on June 15 by an address from the President, the Duke of Devonshire, and from the President of the last Congress, Mr. Léo Saignat.

This meeting of Congress, the previous meetings of which were—in 1886 (at Bordeaux), in 1889 (at Paris), and in 1895 (at Bordeaux), appears likely, if one may judge of the interest it is exciting, to be a success.

Invitations were sent through our Foreign Office to Foreign Governments to appoint delegates, and up to the present notice has been received of the appointment, by Belgium, of M. Eugène Rombaut, Inspector-General of Industries and Professional Education, M. Wanters, Assistant Inspector, and Dr. Pyffersen, of the University of Gand, and, by France, of M. Félix Martel, Inspector-General of Public Instruction. Invitations have also been sent to the Technical Instruction Committees of County Councils, and other bodies and institutions interested in the subject, to appoint representatives, and have met with a hearty response; also to bodies and institutions abroad of a like character, in which case an equally satisfactory result is expected.

There are also a large number of persons who, by the payment of the modest subscription of 5s., have become members of the Congress, and as such are entitled to all the privileges of the Congress.

After the opening addresses, the Congress will break up into two Sections—the subjects to be discussed, which have reference only to advanced and secondary instruction, falling under the heads of Industrial and Commercial Education—to meet simultaneously from 11 to 1 and 2.30 to 5 each day; one at the Society of Arts, the other at the London School of Economics, until Friday, at 2.30, when there will be the concluding meeting of the combined Sections. The list of those who have up to the present promised papers, so far as this country is concerned, is decidedly a strong one, containing, as it does, the names of Sir J. Donnelly and Sir H. T. Wood, who will deal with the part taken by the Society of Arts in the matter of technical education; Dr. Wertheimer and Mr. Dixon, on subject of examinations; and Prof. Ayrton, Mr. Redgrave and Mr. Macan, on State and legislative interference; Sir J. Fitch, Prof. Thompson, Mr. Slingo and Mr. Turner, on reforms and limitations; Mr. Wells, on the training of teachers; Prof. Garnett, Mr. Hogg and Mr. Sachs, on training bodies; Dr. Armstrong and Dr. Gladstone, on chemical education; Mr. Ablett, on drawing; Mr. King and Mr. Swire Smith, on evening schools; and, on the commercial side, Dr. Wormell, Mr. Webb, Mr. Eve, Mr. Hewins, and Mr. Organ. Sir P. Magnus will speak on theory and practice in trade education, and there will be a series of papers from practical men on the subject of technical education as it affects particular industries and agriculture. There will be a joint Indian paper from Mr. Baines and Mr. Bhownaggee, and one each from seven of our colonies by a man of official position and educational experience in the colony to which the paper relates. The ladies will be represented by the Countess of Warwick, on rural districts; Miss Hughes, on technical education of girls and women; Miss Pycroft and Miss Mitchell, on domestic economy; and Miss Calder and Miss Walter, on domestic science.

The list of foreign papers is, as yet, far from complete; but amongst the contributors from abroad may be mentioned, in addition to those already referred to, Dr. Witt (of Berlin), Prof. Lunge (of Zürich), M. Siegfried

and M. Mesureur (of Paris), M. Ed. Séve (of Belgium). Arrangements are being made to enable our foreign visitors and others to become acquainted with the work being done in the matter of technical education, and also for their entertainment. Under the last head may be mentioned the evening reception at the Mansion House, on June 17 (to which the Lord Mayor has kindly invited the members of the Congress), the Society of Arts conversazione on June 16, and an excursion for foreign delegates to be arranged on June 19.

JAMES WYLLIE RODGER, A.R.C.S.

BY the death of J. W. Rodger a young life of great scientific promise has been cut short. He was born at Stewarton, N.B., on December 11, 1867, and was educated at Kilmarnock Academy, under Dr. Dickie, and at the Royal College of Science, London. His college career was interrupted by illness, but he won all the chief prizes, and took a very active part in the management of the college societies. In 1889 he was appointed assistant in the research laboratory, with the result that in the course of the next five or six years a number of papers were published, of which he was joint author with Dr. Thorpe. One of the most important of these, "On the relations between the viscosity of liquids and their chemical nature," was printed in the *Philosophical Transactions*, and was the subject of the Bakerian Lecture in 1894. By a kindly arrangement the lecture was delivered by the younger of the two authors, and no one who was present is likely to have forgotten how well Rodger acquitted himself of his task. It was an admirable piece of exposition. He spoke quickly, but with perfect distinctness; with modesty, but without apparent nervousness or hesitation. Every point was made clear, and at the end it was the general opinion that the Bakerian Lecture had rarely, if ever, been better given than by the youngest Bakerian Lecturer.

A continuation of the work on viscosity, by the same authors, appeared in the *Transactions* in March of the present year.

At the end of 1895 another important paper by Rodger and his friend, Mr. W. Watson, was also published in the *Transactions*. The subject was "The magnetic rotation of the plane of polarisation of light in carbon bisulphide and water."

In addition to these labours Rodger wrote often and well in *NATURE* and in *Science Progress*, chiefly choosing subjects connected with chemical physics.

Of singularly attractive appearance and manners, popular with his fellows, a good teacher, and a first-rate lecturer, he had done enough solid work to prove that, if life and health were spared, he would win an honourable place in the ranks of English science. But it was not to be. Some time ago serious delicacy of the chest developed, and ten days ago he died before completing his thirtieth year.

A. W. R.

NOTES.

AT the annual meeting for the election of Fellows of the Royal Society, held on Thursday last, the candidates whose names and qualifications we have already published (p. 54) were elected into the Society.

THE Vienna Academy of Sciences have elected as foreign members: Profs. Vogel and Bezold of Berlin, Prof. Gegenbaur of Heidelberg, Prof. Max Müller, and Lord Lister.

THE President and Council of the Royal Geographical Society will hold a reception at the Natural History Museum this evening.