

form, even though it was raging as an epidemic in France and Spain in 1884-1885. This immunity may be attributed to the great measures for sewage and refuse removal carried out in Britain, which had slowly resulted in such a purification of the soil as to make it unsuitable for conferring virulence on the micro-organism of cholera.

Among the subjects discussed in the sections were the notification of consumption, the several aspects of sewage disposal, construction of hospitals and public baths, and disinfection.

In addition to the sections, eight technical conferences were held dealing with the aspects of hygiene, particularly in reference to the different professions and various classes of the community.

In connection with the congress an exhibition of sanitary apparatus and appliances was arranged, containing exhibits brought by manufacturers from all parts of the country. The visits made to the various municipal undertakings and sanitary works in the neighbourhood served as a valuable object-lesson, illustrating many of the matters discussed in the meetings of the congress.

Among the exhibits at the exhibition, which were carefully examined by a board of expert judges, a special Rogers Field medal was awarded by the institute to the Northern Vacuum Cleaning Company for their apparatus for cleaning carpets, furniture, and house decorations without removing them from the house. The attendance of members and delegates numbered 1550.

E. WHITE WALLIS.

THE MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION.

THE fourteenth annual congress of the Museums Association was held in Aberdeen on July 13-16, and although the place of meeting was so far north, the attendance was exceptionally good, while the programme of business was one of the most varied and useful that has ever been brought before the Association. The president for this year is Dr. F. A. Bather, assistant keeper of geology, British Museum (Natural History), whose presidential address dealt chiefly with art museums. After defining generally the purport and breadth of museums, which he classified into three divisions, (a) investigation for the benefit of specialists; (b) instruction for the benefit of students; and (c) inspiration for the guidance of the general visitor, he entered into a critical survey of the Museum of Fine Art, specially condemning the present system of arranging pictures, and the lack of harmony between the architecture, decoration, and contents of an art gallery.

Mr. James Murray followed with a paper on the Aberdeen Art Gallery, which is about to be greatly extended; then came a paper by Mr. Alex. M. Rodger, "Method of Mounting Fish with Natural Surroundings," which can be commended to all curators who wish to make their museums attractive. Mr. W. P. Pycraft was rather severe on some of the methods of representing birds in a museum, and Mr. E. M. Holmes briefly described a method of preserving the natural colours of dried leaves and flowers for museum specimens, which had stood the test of many years' exposure, while a paper by Mr. H. Bolton treated of the "Re-shelving of Museum Cases." "On Good Form in Natural History Museums" was the title of a paper by Mr. F. Jeffrey Bell; another paper of the same character being "Neglect of Opportunities," by Mr. S. S. Buckman.

In addition to representatives from the leading museums of Britain, there were some foreign representatives who read papers. Dr. Jens Thiis, director of the Nordenfjeldske Kunstindustri-museum, Trondhjem, explained the practical work connected with that museum; Dr. G. Johanson Karlin, of the Kulturhistoriske Museum, Lund, gave some good advice in his paper on the museum system; while Dr. O. Lehmann, of the Altona Museum, advocated the cultivation of the habit of drawing in natural history museums.

Other papers were contributed by Prof. T. D. A. Cockerell, of the New Mexico Normal University; Dr. Anton Fritsch, of the Bohemian Museum, Prag; Mr. B. H. Woodward, of the Perth Museum, Western Australia; and Prof. Wm. M. Ramsay, of Aberdeen, who treated of the archaic art of the north-east of Scotland, and the urgent necessity for the preservation of existing examples of it, while Prof. J. Arthur Thomson, in a convincing paper,

showed the need for a faunistic museum for the north of Scotland. All these papers, together with the discussions which they aroused, will be published in due course in the *Museums Journal*. The invitation of the City of Norwich to hold the conference in 1904 in that city was accepted, and Dr. S. F. Harmer, superintendent of the Museum of Zoology, Cambridge, was elected president, Mr. E. Howarth, of the Museum and Art Gallery, Sheffield, being re-elected secretary and editor.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE third reading of the London Education Bill was carried in the House of Commons on July 22, and the second reading passed the House of Lords on July 28. The measure will, therefore, doubtless soon be placed upon the Statute-book.

THE following awards have been made under the research scheme of the Carnegie Trust for the universities of Scotland, in addition to those announced last week:—*Research Scholarships*.—Pathological: Mr. C. T. Andrew, Mr. A. Matheson, Mr. M. Logan Taylor, Mr. S. A. K. Wilson. Economical: Mr. John Young.

MR. PHILIP J. HARTOG has been appointed academic registrar of the University of London in succession to Dr. H. Frank Heath, and Dr. E. R. Edwards secretary to the registrar of the board to promote the extension of university teaching, in succession to Mr. J. Travis Mills. The Drapers' Company has presented to the university the sum of 1000*l.* to be devoted to the assistance of Prof. Karl Pearson in his statistical researches at University College and in the higher work of his department.

THE Technical Instruction Committee of Leeds has decided to give support to the application of the Yorkshire College for the establishment of a university in Leeds, to be entitled Victoria University of Yorkshire, and, in the event of a Charter being granted, to give 4000*l.* per annum towards the university funds, in addition to the 1550*l.* granted from the "whisky" money. The finance committee also approved of the resolution. The *Gazette* of Friday last announces that a petition has been presented to the King in Council praying that a Charter be granted constituting an independent university in Sheffield.

AMONG many questions of educational interest considered in the report for 1902 of the council of the City and Guilds of London Institute is that of the relation between the amount of State aid for university and higher technical education and that of private munificence for the same purpose. The report states, "that State or public aid does not necessarily take the place of private and voluntary effort is shown by the experience of the United States of America. Notwithstanding the increasing revenue available there from the State land grants permanently assigned to education, the activity and munificence of private effort increases rather than diminishes, as shown by the large contributions which are continually being made to the principal universities and higher colleges. In the three months September to November of last year gifts to higher education, amounting in all to nearly five million dollars, equal to about one million sterling, have been publicly recorded." The report also shows that the executive committee of the institute has had under consideration the question of the length of the sessions of work of colleges providing systematic courses of higher instruction. It has been found that the number of weeks in the session at eight of the principal technical colleges in England varies from thirty-one to thirty-three, leaving between four and five months' vacation during the year. Vacations do not necessarily mean holidays, and in most colleges the work of advanced students continues into the vacations; nevertheless, the committee suggests that the length of the formal session might with advantage be increased.

TWENTY-EIGHT senior county scholarships and exhibitions have just been awarded by the London County Council Technical Education Board. The awards are made on the work and promise of the candidates, and most of the scholars will pursue their studies at universities or advanced