

another is geography and anthropology; another is economics and education, and, except the College group, they are all quite near the reception room. No matter what arrangements had been made, there must have been inconvenience for some members. It is now difficult for a man whose chief interest is in physiology to hear a botany paper, or for a man interested in mathematics or physics or chemistry to hear an education paper, but I have heard much less complaint about such matters than I have ever heard before at a British Association meeting.

The presidential address is usually rather a disappointment to a general audience, many of whom cannot hear, and the subject is often of only special interest to some scientific people. On this occasion the voice of the president was low but penetrating, and I never remember an occasion since the time of Tyndall when one felt so strongly that there was subdued but intense feeling in the audience. When at length the Lord Provost sprung upon the meeting the hitherto carefully hidden fact that Dr. Caird had made us a gift of 10,000*l.*, there was a thrill through the audience which made itself immediately manifest. Satisfaction and delight were to be expected on the faces of the visitors, but it might have been expected that Dundee people would not altogether like to see so large a benefaction leaving their town. But, as a matter of fact, the pride already felt by the local people in the acknowledged success of the meeting was augmented in a wonderful manner, and there was only delighted satisfaction in their faces and congratulation in their language. The feeling of the more permanent members of the association is soberly expressed in the remarks of the treasurer when he proposed the vote of thanks to Dr. Caird at the meeting of the general committee.

As for the scientific work, I can only speak as one member attending sections A and G. The presidents' addresses and the reading of papers have so far been well attended by mathematicians, physicists, and engineers, as well as by the ordinary members. A joint discussion between these sections on unsolved problems in wireless telegraphy was so well maintained and so interesting that when Lord Rayleigh was speaking, one thought at once of the possible return of the older times when Kelvin or Fitzgerald suddenly illuminated our proceedings. From men attending the other sections I have heard so far only of successful sectional meetings. There is no doubt that much more than the average number of members capable of speech and interested in the scientific work of the Association are present at this meeting of the British Association.

JOHN PERRY.

At the meeting of the general committee on Friday, September 6, it was unanimously resolved "That the best thanks of the British Association be expressed to Dr. J. K. Caird for his most generous gift to the Association." Speaking to the motion, Prof. Perry, the general treasurer, said:—"This is the only gift of money that the British Association has ever received.

It is greatly needed. In my eight years of office as treasurer the nominal assets of our Association have neither increased nor diminished. I have made the fat years of our visits to large cities make up for the lean years of our visits to smaller towns. But although our nominal wealth is the same, our actual wealth is less because of the depreciation of Consols and our other investments.

"There are two great functions of the British Association. One is to stir up all the people of this Empire occasionally to take an interest in scientific discovery and research of all kinds; the other is less known. It is perhaps the treasurer of the British Association who knows better than anybody else the enormous importance of the work that is done every year by the committees appointed by the various sections to make scientific researches during the ensuing year.

"Groups of men of the highest scientific attainments and reputation give their time and enthusiasm to the work, and they only ask that quite a small part of their out-of-pocket expenses shall be paid. I know of no work in the world that is so important or that is so little known.

"Every year your treasurer meets the Committee of Recommendations, each section strong in its reason for getting money, and yet the aggregate amount asked for is so much above our means. It really goes to my heart every year to limit the supply of money, and my colleagues here, the secretaries, blame me every year because I give more money than I ought. I particularly feel for the biological committees. I know nothing of biology, but I know of the enormous importance of the work done by the biological committees; and these biological people can get no outside money. If I want money for any important scientific object relating to physics or engineering, I know at once where to apply for a few hundreds or even many hundreds of pounds, and I get it readily, for men have become rich through engineering. But the biological people seem to have no outside pecuniary resources. I am, however, glad to think that this gift is not earmarked in any way. It is generous and unconditional.

"Gentlemen, your treasurer assures you that this splendid gift of Dr. Caird will return him more interest than all the other benefactions."

At the same meeting of the general committee, Sir William White, K.C.B., F.R.S., was elected President for the meeting of the Association to be held at Birmingham next year from September 10 to September 17. The following have been appointed Vice-Presidents of this meeting:—The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, the Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire (the Most Hon. the Marquess of Northampton), the High Sheriff of Warwickshire, the Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire (the Right Hon. the Earl of Coventry), the Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire (the Right Hon. the Earl of Dartmouth, V.D.), the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Birmingham, the Chancellor of the University of Birmingham (the Right Hon. J. Chamberlain, M.P.), the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham, the Principal of the University of Birmingham (Sir Oliver Lodge, F.R.S.), the Hon. President of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce (the Right Hon. Jesse Collings, M.P.), Alderman the Right Hon. William Henrick, J.P., the Deputy Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Prof. J. H. Poynting, F.R.S., Prof. C. Lapworth, F.R.S.

Local officers:—Treasurers, Alderman Sir G. H. Kenrick and Councillor Neville Chamberlain, J.P.; secretaries, Prof. F. W. Gamble, Mr. Howard Heaton, Mr. John Humphreys, and Mr. W. Byng Kenrick.