

British Association.

SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE CARDIFF MEETING.

THE sectional programmes for the British Association meeting at Cardiff, August 24-28, are now taking shape, and some of the principal scientific subjects which will be discussed may be indicated. The Mathematical and Physical Section, under the presidency of Prof. A. S. Eddington, will be concerned with the Einstein theory, and will receive a paper on the shift of the Fraunhofer lines with reference to that theory. The Section will also discuss the examination of materials by X-rays, the origin of spectra, terrestrial magnetism, auroræ, solar disturbance, and various phenomena of the upper atmosphere. The Geological Section will, as usual, pay attention to local geology, and will also, in joint session with the Sections of Zoology and Botany, discuss Mendelism and palæontology with reference to the Mendelian interpretation of gradual changes, especially when new characters appear late in the individual life-cycle. The Zoological Section will also consider the need for the scientific investigation of the ocean and of fisheries—a subject in which not only the president of the Section (Prof. J. Stanley Gardiner), but also Dr. W. A. Herdman, president of the Association and professor of oceanography at Liverpool University, are leading authorities.

The president of the Geographical Section, Mr. J. McFarlane, will deal in his address with geography and nationality as factors in the formation of the new Europe; the Section will also discuss the distribution of population in South Wales, the new Ordnance Survey maps, the place of geography in a reformed classical course, and various problems connected with Abyssinia, Algeria, Tunisia, Asia Minor, Finland, and other lands. The Engineering Section is expecting papers from Sir Arthur Duckham on the use of coal and from Mr. S. F. Edge on farm tractors, and will also deal with a number of metallurgical and mechanical topics. The Anthropological Section will consider several subjects of Welsh interest, including Welsh ethnology, the Roman sites at Caerwent and Abergelle, "hill-top" camps, especially in North Cardiganshire, and Welsh folk-music; in this Section also, among other speakers, Prof. Flinders Petrie is expected to give an account of recent work in Egypt. The Physiological Section, jointly with its sub-section of Psychology, will deal with the subject of psychological medicine in the United States, while the Section will also consider the place of physiology in education, and will receive from Prof. A. D. Waller a demonstration of the "emotive response" of the human subject. The erection of psychology into the subject of a separate section will be brought forward.

The Sections of Physiology and Botany jointly will discuss biochemistry and systematic relationship. The Botanical Section, in addition to other joint meetings, will join that of Agriculture in dealing with soil and plant survey work. In the Educational Section the report of a committee will be received upon training in citizenship, in connection with which Bishop Welldon, Sir R. Baden-Powell, and Lady Shaw are expected to speak. The Section, among other subjects, will discuss the relation of schools to life, post-graduate international education, and the relation of universities, public schools, training colleges, and higher technical schools to a national system. In connection with the last discussion it is hoped to receive a communication on universities from the Right Hon. H. A. L. Fisher. A number of papers of psychological and educational interest will be received in joint session with the sub-section of Psychology. The Agricultural Section will have

before it a number of practical subjects concerned with crops and livestock.

In addition to general excursions, several Sections, including those of Geology, Geography, Engineering, Anthropology, Botany, and Education, will visit sites, works, or institutions in Cardiff and the neighbourhood appropriate to their various interests.

The subjects of the evening discourses given at general meetings will be "A Grain of Wheat from the Field to the Table," by Sir Daniel Hall, of the Board of Agriculture, and "Some Requirements of Modern Aircraft," by Sir Richard Glazebrook, lately director of the National Physical Laboratory.

Museums Association Annual Conference.

THE thirty-first annual conference of the Museums Association was held in Winchester on July 6-8, under the presidency of Sir Martin Conway, Director-General of the Imperial War Museum. There were present about a hundred delegates from the various museums and art galleries of Great Britain and Ireland, while Colonial and foreign institutions were represented by Mr. Fitzroy Carrington, from the Boston Museum of Fine Arts; Mr. E. C. Chubb, from Durban Museum; and Dr. G. Johansson Karlin, from the Kulturhistoriska Museet, Lund.

The meeting marked an epoch in the history of the association, since it partook of the nature of a joint conference with the Museums Association of France, which was represented by Prof. Louis Roule, of the Paris Museum, and Dr. Loir, secretary of the French Museums Association.

In his presidential address Sir Martin Conway gave an account of the formation of the Imperial War Museum temporarily housed in the Crystal Palace. He explained how the difficulties of the collection and transport of specimens are being met, and dealt with some of the problems of their storage, especially in the case of war cinematograph films the preservation of which at present is both difficult and expensive. Owing to the vast mass of material collected and the large size of many of the exhibits, the president pointed out that their permanent home must of necessity be spacious. He suggested that no more fitting war memorial could be raised than a stately museum on the Surrey bank of the Thames near the proposed site of the new Charing Cross bridge. Here the thousands of specimens connected with and illustrating the war period could be housed, and with them a complete Roll of Honour, with biographical notes, of every man and woman of the Empire who had fallen in the great struggle.

Mr. E. N. Fallaize read a paper of great interest and utility to museum curators on "Suggestions for the Classification of the Subject-matter of Anthropology." In consideration of the vast field covered by this subject, he pointed out the necessity for the formation of a definite plan for its study, suggesting a broad classification of the subject into two heads, one dealing with man as an organism and the other treating him as a rational being reacting to his environment. For the first, a study of man's structure and the functions of his organs is needed, including a study of the abnormal, both physical and mental. Having thus established a type, the second heading falls naturally into two groups: ethnology, a study of man in space, and what may be termed palæ-anthropology, a study of man in time. In addition, man's nature as shown in the development and employment of specifically human faculties should be studied, not chronologically, but in a logical sequence