

of those who show deficiencies from the standards obtaining in conditions of perfect health.

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The British Association at Cardiff.

THE eighty-eighth annual meeting of the British Association opened at Cardiff on Tuesday morning, in the very unfortunate circumstances of a general strike of tramwaymen and some other sections of the city workmen. It is to be feared that as, unfortunately, paragraphs about this found their way into the Sunday newspapers, this local trouble has had the effect of diminishing the attendance at the meeting. Members and intending members might have rested assured that the city of Cardiff would rise to the occasion. The local secretaries immediately arranged a British Association motor service for the use of members, but it appears that no inconvenience was felt by those who are attending the meeting, and most of the services have now been withdrawn.

It is not possible at the moment of writing to give exact figures of the membership, but it exceeded 1200 on Tuesday morning, so that a fair average meeting was even then certain, in spite of the strike. The weather, always inclined to be wet in this part of the country, and particularly atrocious during the present summer, has taken a turn for the better, and the visitors have had the opportunity of seeing the sun in Cardiff, when the residents had almost forgotten its existence.

The citizens' lecture on "Light and Life," by Prof. J. Lloyd Williams, of University College, Aberystwyth, in the Park Hall, on Monday evening, attracted a large audience, notwithstanding that many of those present had to face a long walk home.

At the inaugural general meeting on Tuesday evening, when Prof. Herdman delivered the illuminating address published in full elsewhere in this issue, the retiring president, Sir Charles Parsons, read a message which the council had sent to the King offering, at this meeting in Wales, the grateful congratulations of the Association for the inspiring work done for the Empire

by the Prince of Wales during his Australasian tour. Sir Charles Parsons read also messages of condolence sent to relatives of Prof. J. Perry and Sir Norman Lockyer at the loss sustained by the recent deaths of these two distinguished representatives of British science—one of whom was general treasurer of the Association from 1904 until his death, while the other was president in 1903-4.

At the meeting of the general committee on Tuesday, the report of the council was adopted nominating Sir Edward Thorpe as president of the Association for the meeting next year in Edinburgh, and Sir Charles Parsons as a permanent trustee, in succession to the late Lord Rayleigh.

The whole of the presidential addresses are this year published in volume form under the title "The Advancement of Science, 1920," at the price of 6s., or 4s. 6d. to members at the meeting. The volume makes a valuable record of the progress and position of many departments of science, and of authoritative conclusions concerning them.

Whilst the meeting is not likely to rank as a "record," the members present are very keen, and everything possible to ensure its success is being done by the city authorities and local Press.

The palatial apartments of the City Hall are being used for the reception room and other offices, whilst in the University College and Technical College near by all the sections are provided with excellent accommodation. The Park Hall, in which the president's address, the evening discourses, and the citizens' lectures are delivered, has a seating capacity of well above 2000, and everyone present has an uninterrupted view and hearing.

The numerous sectional and the two general excursions have not been interfered with by the strike, as they rely chiefly on road or railway transport.

R. V. S.