

as part of a vast scheme planned by God. And the soul of man is the glory of the whole design. Because of the soul within him man, as Jesus taught, is meant to be the child of God. As our souls grow through the quickening power of the Spirit of Christ we can on earth know and serve the Father of us all and begin to enjoy that Divine communion which is eternal life. The Christ Spirit within us, the "quality of deity," as it has been called, separates us from the animals whence we have sprung just as life separates them from the matter of which they are made. And through the Spirit of Christ we put on immortality, for the things that are of God are eternally with God.

Science describes the process by which man has

come into being. Religion takes man as he is and offers him guidance towards his spiritual destiny. Between the religious revelation of Jesus and modern science there is no opposition. The two dovetail into one another with singular exactness. Evolution describes facts; the ultimate meaning of those facts Christ's teaching discloses. We need faith to accept the Lord's message; we cannot prove its truth by the methods of scientific inquiry, for the spiritual world is a type of reality which the organs of sense will not reveal. But by living the Christian life, by prayer and communion with God, we can continuously strengthen the faith which is not sight, and become ever more confident that the Lord was in very truth the Light of the world.

The British Association at Cardiff.

THE Cardiff meeting of the British Association came to an end on Sunday morning, when the Lord Mayor of Cardiff (Councillor G. F. Forsdike) and the Corporation, with the general officers of the Association and some of the members, attended the service at St. John's Church. The Association sermon was preached by Canon E. W. Barnes, F.R.S., and we are glad to be able to reproduce it this week. The scientific work of the Association concluded on Friday evening, August 27, when Sir Daniel Hall delivered a stimulating discourse under the title of "A Grain of Wheat from the Field to the Table." A comprehensive vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor, Corporation, and citizens of Cardiff was carried with acclamation, and was responded to by the Lord Mayor and by Dr. W. Evans Hoyle, whose valuable work as local secretary was much appreciated by all.

There were 1378 members present during the week, but the meeting, though relatively small, has been particularly interesting from the scientific point of view. Among the new features was a conference on "Science applied to Public Services," held on August 26, when Mr. F. E. Smith, director of scientific research at the Admiralty, described the admirable scheme of research which has recently been introduced (see *NATURE*, April 22, p. 245). Prof. C. F. Jenkin, Mr. J. Barcroft, Sir Francis Ogilvie, and Dr. J. W. Evans referred to similar research work in other Government Departments. It was felt that a similar conference, with perhaps some description of results obtained, so far as they can be made public, and opportunity for free and adequate discussion, could usefully be held at each meeting.

As we stated last week, a message was sent from the inaugural meeting to the King in Scotland, where the Association is to meet next year. The message was as follows:—"The members of the British Association for the Advancement of Science desire to express their loyal devotion to your Majesty, and at their meeting in the Princi-

pality of Wales hope that they may be permitted to congratulate your Majesty on the splendid work done by the Prince of Wales, which has drawn towards him the thoughts and the hearts of the whole Empire."

The King; in thanking the Association through Sir Charles Parsons, the retiring president, for this loyal greeting, added:—"I feel greatly touched at the kind references to my son, which are the more appreciated coming as these do from members of this distinguished society assembled in the Principality of Wales. I shall follow your deliberations with close interest, and I gratefully recognise all that is being done for the advancement of civilisation by the men of science."

There is probably no more remarkable example of the scientific spirit which animates the British Association than that displayed in the allocation of its annual grants for research purposes. Each section of the Association nominates research committees, and most of them apply for small grants to carry out the work and defray the clerical and other incidental expenses involved. A total of about 1000*l.* a year is voted by the Committee of Recommendations to these committees and approved by the General Committee, and every pound of this comes out of the subscriptions of the members. This year the amount voted in grants for research was about 1100*l.*, part of which will be required for expenses of publication. It is hoped some external support will be forthcoming for this branch of the Association's work, and that Government Departments interested in particular subjects will assist in the publication of some of the reports prepared by research committees.

Among the corresponding members and other foreign representatives present at the meeting were:—M. Brieux (Directeur de la Station Agronomique de Rouen, France); M. Bruno (Insp. Gén. des Stations Agronomiques, Paris); Prof. C. J. Chamberlain (Chicago); Prof. R. Chodat (Geneva); Dr. S. I. Franz (George Washington

University, representing the American Association); Prof. A. Gilson (Louvain, Belgium); Prof. R. W. Hegner (Dept. Medical Zoology, Johns Hopkins University); Prof. F. Jaeger (Groningen); Prof. C. A. Kofoid (University of California); Prof. Graham Lusk (Cornell University Medical College); Dr. Naser (representing the International Students' Union, University of Copenhagen); Don G. J. de Osma (Madrid); and Yoshimaro Tanaka (Japan). The General Committee has resolved that national associations for the advancement of science shall in future be invited to send representatives to meetings of the British Association.

The new members of the Council are:—Mr. Joseph Barcroft, Prof. J. Stanley Gardiner, Sir Daniel Hall, Dr. Chalmers Mitchell, and Sir W. J. Pope.

Next year's meeting at Edinburgh, under the presidency of Sir Edward Thorpe, will be from Wednesday, September 7, to Wednesday, September 14. In the following year the meeting will be held at Hull, an invitation tendered by the Lord Mayor and the Town Clerk of that city having been unanimously accepted by the General Committee. No further meetings were actually arranged at Cardiff, but there is a possibility that the meeting in 1923 will be in another northern city, and invitations have been received to meet in Canada in 1924.

Dr. R. V. Stanford, secretary of the Press and Publicity Sub-Committee at Cardiff, who acted as our local correspondent for the meeting, has sent us the following statement, which merits the attention of the Council of the Association and of local committees organising the annual meetings. We are sure that, in making these comments, Dr. Stanford is as desirous of increasing public interest in the work of the Association as we are in publishing it.

"It is difficult to resist taking this opportunity to make one or two observations, though in proposing to offer any criticisms of such a great and venerable institution as the British Association one has rather the feelings of a curate meditating a mild attack on his bishop. There are many members of the Association who are of the opinion that some changes in its policy are not only desirable, but are also rapidly becoming inevitable. Now is the time to take stock of the position, for the recent meeting at Cardiff was really the first normal post-war meeting. The Bournemouth meeting could scarcely be called so, because of its situation and of the very general curiosity regarding war secrets. It is, therefore, rather disappointing to find the membership no greater. What is more disappointing still is that the principal reason for this is the apathy of local people of the educated classes to the presence of the Association. The plain fact remains that it is the exception to find anyone who has even heard of the Association. Is this regrettable state of affairs due to something lacking in these individuals themselves, or is the blame to be laid at the door of the Association? It certainly is not peculiar to Cardiff.

"Everyone will agree that the Association serves three main purposes, namely, to furnish opportunity for scientific workers themselves to get in touch with men working on allied subjects, to try to encourage research, and (what some of us think most important of all) to make scientific knowledge accessible to the general public. It may very well be maintained that the first two of these purposes are being very much better served than the third. Some lay organ of the Press referred to this Cardiff meeting as a 'jamboree of science.' So it was—for the scientific men. But if we were the scouts, where were the delighted parents, who should be such a feature of the entertainment? The point of this analogy is that while the scientific men themselves had four whole days in twelve sections to meet each other and discuss matters in a way of little intelligibility to anyone but themselves, the educated man in the street could only expect a couple of evening discourses to interest him, with a possibility of three more if there was room. The local Press reported the meetings astonishingly well, but such reports, however widely they may be read, do not take the place of a full lecture.

"The importance of scientific work will never be recognised adequately by the general public until they are better instructed as to the practical results which are to be expected from it, and this end can be reached only by the leaders of scientific thought and discovery going out of their way to show the ordinary man that he has a personal interest in the matter. It cannot be pretended that this result is properly secured by five lectures during the whole meeting. We should like to have seen fifty of them, and to have seen them delivered, not to the scientific, but to the non-scientific, public. What is being suggested is not a return to what might be called the lecture habit of the Victorian period, often a perfectly useless type of scientific conjuring entertainment. It is also not necessarily implied that they shall be delivered in the largest hall in the district: sectional meeting rooms would do in many cases.

"Some change in this direction has been referred to above as desirable, and also as inevitable. The inevitability arises from the need which is bound to be felt by the Association of increasing its membership, and consequently its financial resources, rather than the reverse. There are certainly some points that might be thought of, which would result, for example, in a considerable reduction of expenditure for the meeting, and that is a matter which cannot be neglected in these days of high wages and long prices, either by the Association or by its hosts from year to year. A great saving of time and trouble would be effected by the adoption of some method of getting an idea before the meeting as to how many people were coming. This might be done by adding a surcharge to the price of any tickets sold after a certain date. The same consideration applies to excursions: it is easy to lose considerable sums in the way of guarantees for motor transport and meals."