

The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea.

THE report of the British delegates just received shows that the last meeting of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, held in Copenhagen on September 1-4, was, though short, an important one in the Council's history, for at this meeting the machinery of the Council, which had grown rather cumbrous, was thoroughly overhauled and in a considerable measure replaced and renewed, in accordance with a plan prepared by the president, Mr. H. G. Maurice, with the help of Prof. Johan Hjort. To take the less important changes first: the main Committees of the Council are now formed on a regional basis, instead of being based partly upon geographical areas and partly upon the species of fish studied. The regional committees which came into being after the War proved to be a very convenient and practical means of getting co-ordinated researches carried out, and the logical step has now been taken of arranging all the main researches of the Council on this regional basis. The "Area Committees" now formed are seven in number—for the North-Eastern Area (the Norwegian Sea east of the 1000-metre line), the North-Western (Rockall, Faeroe and Iceland), the Atlantic Slope (Rockall to Morocco), the Northern North Sea, the Southern North Sea, and two committees for the Skagerrak, Cattegat and Baltic area. In addition, the Statistical, Hydrographical, Plankton and Limnological Committees remain in being.

For each of the area committees there has been appointed a chairman with very definite duties and responsibilities, who will see that the work done in his area is properly co-ordinated in accordance with the programmes agreed upon, and will report on the progress made. Now comes the most important point in the new organisation. The chairmen of these committees, together with the chairman of the Hydrographical Committee, will form a Consultative Committee which will advise the executive of the Council, the "Bureau," on the proper conduct of the scientific work, and must be consulted by the Bureau. (The two Baltic committees will be represented by one of their chairmen only.)

The criticism has sometimes been made of the International Council that its affairs are too much in the hands of administrative delegates, while too little power is allowed to the scientific experts. What truth there may be in this opinion it is difficult to say, but the voting power is limited to the official delegates, who are usually, but by no means always, scientifically qualified, and conditions are conceivable in which the opinion of the experts might not carry its due weight. The new arrangement gives the scientific members of the Council a more definite status and responsibility, for the members of the Consultative Committee are men of scientific standing and voice the opinions of the experts composing the area committees. We regard this new move on the part of the Council as a healthy and fruitful one.

Another new departure resolved upon at the last meeting is the founding of a scientific journal, which will deal with the many aspects of the Council's work, taking cognisance also of similar work done in other parts of the world. The useful short papers hitherto issued by the Council in the series of *Publications de Circonstance* will in future be published in the journal. We understand that the journal will contain also general articles of a comprehensive nature, reviews, and a bibliography, and will be published quarterly, commencing early in 1926. The new journal should serve a very useful purpose in knitting the work of the Council together, and disseminating its results. The editor will be *ex officio* a member of the Consultative and the Editorial Committees. The publication of short reports of a popular nature is also contemplated by the Council.

Apart from these matters of organisation, the delegates' report gives much interesting information regarding the Council's work. Since the War the number of participating countries has increased, particularly among the southern nations, and the area covered by the Council's organisation now extends over the whole seaboard and adjacent waters from the Barentz Sea right down to the coast of Morocco. Only one important country still stands out—Germany, which has not yet resumed membership. It is understood that Germany will shortly rejoin the Council.

Great Britain continues to do the lion's share of the work, particularly at sea, and we are glad to note that she is well represented in the new organisation, Dr. Alex. Bowman being chairman of the Northern North Sea Committee, Mr. J. O. Borley chairman of the Southern, while Dr. E. S. Russell is editor of the journal. Mr. Maurice continues his energetic work as president, and the other British delegate, Mr. David T. Jones (who has succeeded Prof. D'Arcy W. Thompson in this office), presides over the two North Sea Committees when they meet in consultation over problems common to both. Prof. Thompson remains chairman of the Statistical Committee and editor of the *Bulletin statistique*.

Other points of interest in the British delegates' report we can touch upon only briefly. At their request a special committee was appointed to study the very vexed question of the closure of the Moray Firth to trawling, consisting of Norwegian, Danish, Dutch, Belgian and British experts. Reference is also made in the report to investigations commenced by the English Department during the present year on the effect of the size of trawl mesh on the size of fish caught, which are yielding promising results. Finally, we are glad to learn from the report that His Majesty's Government has agreed to support the Council's work for a further period of five years. Results in fishery and oceanographical research cannot be obtained quickly, and the long view will prove in this case to be the wise view.

Relation between Physical and Mental Defects.

A PAPER on the testing of physically defective and of mentally defective children, by Dr. C. R. McRae, who was obliged to return to Australia some days before the recent meeting of the British Association at Southampton, was read before the Section of Psychology. The paper was divided into two parts.

(1) THE BINET-SIMON TESTS AND SPEARMAN'S PRINCIPLES OF COGNITION.—These principles, as enunciated in Prof. Spearman's book, "The Nature of

'Intelligence' and the Principles of Cognition," offer an explanation of the remarkable success of the Binet-Simon tests of intelligence. Of particular importance are the noegenetic principles concerning the eduction of relations and the eduction of correlates. On the basis of these principles an *a priori* analysis and criticism of each component test of the Binet scale was made. To test the validity of this analysis in practice, both physically defective and mentally