The Third Pan-Pacific Science Congress.

THE third Pan-Pacific Science Congress was held at Tokyo on Oct. 30–Nov. 11, 1926, under the auspices of the National Research Council of Japan and through the generosity of the Imperial Japanese Government. It must well have been one of the most remarkable scientific meetings ever held. The main objects of the Congress, like those of the first held in Honolulu in 1920, and of the second held in Australia in 1923, were (1) to initiate and promote co-operation in the study of scientific problems relating to the Pacific region, more especially those affecting the prosperity and well-being of the Pacific peoples; and (2) to promote a feeling of brotherhood and to strengthen the bonds of peace among Pacific peoples. It was laid down that all branches of physical and biological science formed proper subjects for discussion, provided that they bore upon some Pacific problem.

The Congress was attended by 150 delegates from countries outside Japan, and by 400 Japanese members. At the opening meeting, speeches of welcome were made by the Prince of Kan-in and by the Prime Minister of Japan. In addition to the general opening and final meetings, two joint meetings of all members of the Congress were held. At the first of these such papers were read as constituted a review of the present state of knowledge of the physical and biological oceanography of the Pacific, and at the second such papers as dealt with special plans for international co-operation. At five other sessions the different branches of science were grouped together so as to form two broad divisions, namely, the physical and the biological. At the remaining sessions simultaneous sectional meetings were held, there being sections for astronomy, meteorology and terrestrial magnetism, radio waves, geology, seismology, architecture, botany, zoology and fisheries, agriculture, geography, hygiene and medicine.

The object of the broad divisional meetings was an attempt to realise solidarity of feeling and action, and this attempt was eminently successful. At the meetings of the physical division the papers were grouped under the following headings: Meteorological and time-service by radio transmission and causes which give rise to its disturbance; form of the geoid as deduced from geodetic observations, measurements of gravity and plumb-line deviations; suitable projections for maps on different scales; crustal movements and geotectonics, earthquakes, crust-tides, and variation of mean sea-level; study of volcanoes in their various aspects; thermal springs; metallogenetic epochs and their bearing upon structural unity; distribution of rare elements.

At the meetings of the biological division the subjects were grouped under the following headings: Rational methods for the protection of useful aquatic animals and plants; genetics in relation to the improvement of important crops, more particularly rice, and of live stock; distribution of bonitos and tunnis and their ecological studies; distribution and life-history of freshwater eels; international co-operation in the investigations of pelagic fish eggs and larvæ; preservation of natural monuments; rational methods of storing cereals; scientific bases for plant quarantine.

In all, more than 430 papers were presented and briefly described, printed abstracts being provided in advance. The full text of the papers, when published, will be of enormous value.

At the final general meeting many resolutions were passed on the recommendation of divisions, sections, and special committees, and, in particular, rules were drawn up for the constitution of a permanent Pacific Science Association, the function of which will be to organise future congresses. An invitation from the delegation of the Netherlands East Indies to hold the next congress in Java in 1929 was accepted.

Before and after the Congress long excursions were made, covering the land from Hokkaido to Kyushu, while two days in the middle of the Congress were devoted to shorter excursions. In all, there were about twenty excursions, and practically all overseas delegates were shown the beauties and wonders of Nikko, Hakone, Kyoto, and Nara.

Throughout the Congress itself and during the excursions, all overseas delegates and their families were the guests of the Japanese. The extent of the hospitality was only equalled by the perfect organisation, and both were the wonder of all visitors. The president of the Congress was Prof. J. Sakurai, the vice-president Prof. A. Tanakadate, and the general secretaries Profs. N. Yamasaki and K. Matsubara. In consideration of the great importance of these congresses, from both the national and international viewpoints, the Japanese Government, upon the recommendation of the National Research Council, had made a grant to be used for defraying the expenses.

Social functions formed a prominent part of the whole proceedings. Three garden parties were given by members of the Imperial family, and others by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Baron and Baroness Fujita. Dinners were given by the Prime Minister, the president of the Congress, and the Mayors of Tokyo, Kyoto, and Osaka, while luncheons were given by the presidents of the Imperial Academy and of the Pan-Pacific Association of Japan. Theatrical performances of distinctive Japanese type were provided by Baron and Baroness Mitsui, and by the directors of the Imperial Theatre, while there were entertainments at each of the mayoral dinners. In addition there was much hospitality and entertainment of a more sectional and private character. No delegate from overseas will ever forget the cordiality of the welcome received from all types of Japanese citizens.

J. P.

Loutreuil Foundation of the Paris Academy of Sciences.

THE Paris Academy of Sciences received thirty-three applications for assistance under the Loutreuil Foundation, and has made the following grants:

(1) Establishments specially named by the founder.

Muséum national d'histoire naturelle (15,000 francs), École nationale vétérinaire de Lyon (7000 francs), École nationale vétérinaire de Toulouse (7000 francs). These three grants are for the same purpose, to permit these establishments to complete the sets of foreign periodicals in their libraries which have been interrupted during and since the War.

Institut national agronomique. 3000 francs to Jean Guérillot, for the purchase of apparatus for carrying out researches on the action of radio-activity in plant biology.