

as are the agricultural districts of Britain, they have this in common with the scenery of cities, that human effort and contrivance are everywhere visible, and although the human aspect of scenery interests everyone, it does not by itself provide sufficient stimulus for the imagination. A nation needs wide prospects of spontaneous Nature accessible to all. Fortunately, the sea cliffs of our island home present an elemental outlook unsurpassed in grandeur even by Alpine scenery, an image of infinity and eternity of inestimable influence upon the loftier imaginings of the people. Access to the cliffs must be secured, wild lands reserved, and the charm of old-world villages protected. A resolution that His Majesty's Govern-

ment be urged to stimulate local authorities in the protection of scenic amenity in town and country will be proposed by Dr. C. R. Gibson, Royal Philosophical Society of Glasgow, seconded by Mr. T. Sheppard, Museums Association, and supported by the Earl of Crawford.

The second and concluding session will be devoted to the scenery of the English Lake District and its preservation. Dr. H. R. Mill will deal with the geography of the region, a paper will follow upon Wordsworth's interpretation of Nature, and Mr. Ewart James will give an account of a scheme of regional planning for the preservation of scenic amenity in the district.

International Radiology.

THE second International Congress of Radiology, held in Stockholm on July 23-27, proved a pronounced success and one which will long live in the recollections of those who attended it. The Congress was treated by Sweden as of national significance, and the various meetings were held in the Houses of Parliament, which were lent by the Government for the purpose. The municipality of Stockholm offered many facilities and generous hospitality, and had beflagged the main streets and buildings. About 1000 members from 40 different countries were enrolled, the total number with ladies and others interested in the Congress amounting to about 1500. H.R.H. the Crown Prince of Sweden opened the Congress in a wholly admirable speech in English, and stayed to listen to a number of the opening papers. The president, Prof. Gösta Forssell of Stockholm, was presented with a badge and chain of office by the members of the British Institute of Radiology. The chancellor of the Swedish Universities, and Dr. Thurstan Holland, president of the first International Congress, held in London in 1925, also spoke.

The King and Queen of Sweden entertained the members of the Congress at the Royal Palace in the afternoon, the various official delegates being presented to the Crown Prince. The following evening the municipality of Stockholm gave a banquet and ball in the Gilded Room of the world-famous City Hall. Some 750 guests attended the dinner, at which Dr. G. W. C. Kaye offered the thanks of the English-speaking members. Later in the evening nearly 2000 attended the dance, which was held in the magnificent Blue Hall, the scene being one of almost oriental splendour.

The organisation of the Congress was masterly in the extreme and reflects the greatest credit on those responsible. No detail appeared to have been omitted which would contribute to the convenience of the members or facilitate the smooth working of the meetings and social gatherings. The numerous Congress publications were all printed in English, German, and French. Abstracts of the various papers read, some 250 in number, were supplied, together with a 'catalogue' of portraits and particulars of all the members. An exhibition of X-ray and radium apparatus of unusual excellence and dimensions included a joint exhibit of British manufacturers which attracted much attention.

The four main congressional sections, which ran simultaneously, were devoted respectively to diagnostics, therapy, heliotherapy, and radiophysics. Among the medical papers from England may be mentioned one on the rationale of radiation therapy, by Dr. R. Knox, and one by Dr. S. Melville, who contributed to a discussion on instruction and training in medical radiology. Prof. Forssell's demonstration, which drew a large audience, of the after-results of X-ray and radium therapy, illustrated in an out-

standing way the degree of success of this type of treatment in malignant disease. Dr. R. G. Canti's striking kinematograph film showing the effect of radium radiation on the living cell attracted so large an audience that it had to be repeated. Dr. S. G. Scott gave a paper on the remarkably beneficial effects of X-ray treatment on asthma. Prof. Friedrich described the new Institute of Radiology of the University of Berlin. Prof. Siegbahn and his school of workers took an active part in the physics section, to which papers were also contributed by Dessauer, Duane, Glasser, Behnken, Solomon, and others.

The two lasting achievements of the Congress were, first, the unanimous international adoption of the proposals of the British X-ray and Radium Protection Committee. This sets the seal of international approval on the British pioneer efforts to set up standards of protection and so avoid the well-known dangers of over-exposure for the X-ray worker. The result should be to unify protective measures and devices and improve the working conditions of X-ray and radium operators in all countries. The question of seeking legal authorisation for such recommendations was left to each country to deal with as appears to it best. A standing International Protection Committee was set up with Dr. G. W. C. Kaye and Dr. S. Melville as honorary secretaries.

The second noteworthy accomplishment was the adoption of an international unit of X-ray intensity. This unit is that originally proposed by Villard and afterwards and more definitely by Friedrich, and is now defined as "the quantity of X-radiation which, when the secondary electrons are fully utilised and the wall effect of the chamber is avoided, produces, in one cubic centimetre of atmospheric air at 0° C. and 76 cms. mercury pressure, such a degree of conductivity that one electrostatic unit of charge is measured at saturation current." It was agreed to call the unit 'the Röntgen' and to designate it by the letter small 'r.' It still remains, of course, that a specification of dosage for therapeutic or other purposes will require also a specification of quality of the radiation used, and for practical purposes this is sufficiently defined at present either by the half-value layer in some specified material or by the effective wave-length method of Duane. The International X-ray Unit Committee, set up in London at the first Congress, at the instance of the British Committee, was invited to continue its work to evaluate, if possible, the erythema dose of the therapist in *r* units. Prof. Siegbahn was elected chairman, and Prof. E. A. Owen and Prof. H. Holthusen hon. secretaries.

The third International Congress will be held in September 1931 in Paris under the presidency of Dr. A. Bécélère. For the interim, an executive committee of seven from as many different countries was set up, the British representative being Dr. Thurstan Holland.