

S.E. UNION OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

1934

THE thirty-ninth Annual Congress of the South-Eastern Union of Scientific Societies was held at Reading on 11th-14th July, by invitation of the Vice-Chancellor and officials of the University, also with the co-operation of the Berks. Archaeological Society. To the Union are affiliated seventy-seven local Societies. A previous Congress was held at Reading, on the invitation of the Mayor and Corporation, in 1921.

Professor H. L. Hawkins, D.Sc., F.G.S., succeeded Professor E. J. Salisbury, D.Sc., F.R.S., F.L.S., as President of the Union.

The London and Middlesex Archaeological Society appointed two representatives at the Congress, Mr. G. J. B. Fox (Vice-Chairman) and Mr. A. W. Oke (Member of the Council); the former attended.

Accommodation for members was provided, at the discretion of the Bursar, in the Halls of Residence of the University, at a charge of 9s. per day for bed, breakfast and dinner; the arrangements proved satisfactory. Headquarters were at the Gymnasium of the University; the University Buttery was also open for the sale of light refreshments. Every facility was provided for finding the various lecture rooms in which papers were to be read.

11TH JULY. The morning was devoted to informal business. In the afternoon the ruins of the Abbey were inspected under the guidance of Mr. H. T. Morley, Hon. Secretary of the Berks Archaeological Society; later, members were received in the Municipal Museum and Art Gallery by Mr. W. A. Smallcombe, B.Sc., the Curator, who described, *inter alia*, the Borough Charters, also a Replica of the Bayeux Tapestry; relics from

Silchester and Reading Abbey were also described. In the evening members and others were received by the Council and Senate of the University in the Hall of the University. The new President gave his Presidential address on "Fossils and Men." The address was followed by a vote of thanks to the President, also to the retiring President.

12TH JULY. Proceedings commenced at 9.30 with the representatives' meeting. The business included:—Minutes of the last Meeting; the Annual Report of the Council and Reports of the various Sections, and of the Delegate to the British Association Meeting; election of Vice-Presidents to serve on the Council and of four Members of Council (including Mr. G. J. B. Fox); election of Officers of the Union; acceptance of an invitation to hold the 1935 Congress at Bournemouth (26th–29th June); election of the President for 1935 (Professor A. C. Steward).

The Representatives' Meeting was followed by business meetings and Presidential addresses of the following Sections:—

Archaeological.—Mr. T. D. Kendrick, M.A., F.S.A. (of the British Museum), on the "Art and Archaeology of the early Anglo-Saxons"; a paper by Mr. P. S. Stokes, M.A., B.Sc., on "Some Aspects of Local Heraldry."

Botanical Section.

In the afternoon an excursion was made by the Archaeological Section to Silchester, under the guidance of Lieut.-Col. Karslake, F.S.A. The Botanical, Geological and Regional Survey Sections also had outings.

In the evening the Mayoress, Miss Sutton, J.P., held a Reception at the Town Hall.

13TH JULY. The following Sections held business meetings, and Presidential addresses, etc., were given:—Zoological; Geological; and Regional Survey.

In the afternoon excursions were made to Theale and

Pangbourne (Geological); to Sutton & Sons' Seed Trial Grounds (General and Botanical); to Pamber (Zoological and Botanical); to various local factories and works (Regional Survey Section).

In the evening a public lecture was given by Professor E. B. Poulton, F.R.S., on the "Power of Changing Colour as a Form of Protective Resemblance."

14TH JULY. The meeting of representatives concluded with votes of thanks to the Mayor and Corporation, the Vice-Chancellor and Council and Senate of the University, to local bodies and patrons, the local Honorary Secretary (Mr. W. C. Fishlock), the Chairman and members of the Local Committees, and to the local Press.

Sir Lawrence Chubb gave an address on "The Rights of Way Act, 1932."

The final general excursion, attended by about one hundred members, started at 12 o'clock, under the guidance of Mr. W. A. Seaby; a halt was made at Lambourn, where Mr. G. W. Smith described the Church and the Almshouses; the Ridgeway was followed to Wayland's Smithy (a chambered Neolithic long barrow) and to Uffington Camp and the White Horse (the latter was dated by Mr. F. M. Hunderhall, who read a paper on its history, at c. 200 B.C.); later, Uffington Church (XIII c.) was described by Mr. P. S. Spokes; the "Blowing Stone" at Kingston Lisle, Blewbury Church, and the Camp and Lynchets at Blewburton Hill were also included.

The Congress was well attended; much archaeological, etc., material was provided; and all concerned in the arrangements deserved cordial thanks.