

# SCIENTISTS WILL MEET IN MAY

## Sixth New Zealand Congress—First Since 1935

SCIENCE (according to J. D. Crowther, scientific correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*, in a recent BBC talk on Julian Huxley) is one of the humanities. And, in these days when it has so much meaning for the future of man, it is as well that science and knowledge should be placed, through men like Huxley, at the service of the people. This year New Zealand will hold its sixth Science Congress under the auspices of the Royal Society of New Zealand. It will take place in Wellington between Tuesday, May 20, and Friday, May 23, inclusive. A great many subjects will be discussed, many of them affecting the everyday lives of New Zealand's people.

It is unlikely that anything spectacular will come out of the Congress: that rarely happens, said Dr. J. T. Salmon, secretary of the Wellington branch of the Royal Society, when *The Listener* interviewed him. The Congress concentrates in the main on reviews of scientific

progress and the more recent researches in a variety of fields. But it will probably produce some resolutions to go to the Government—decisions affecting particularly, the status of science in this country.

To a layman's eyes the listed subjects, ranging from oceanography to pedology (the science of soils) are impressive in their apparent complexity. But one of the greatest problems—and one that must be solved—is to find accommodation for some of the 400 members who are expected to visit Wellington. The only solution the organisers can see at the moment will be a system of billeting. This task confronts the president of the Wellington branch of the Royal Society (H. C. McQueen) and Dr. Salmon. The Congress will be the first for 12 years; one was to have been held in 1940, but it was stopped by the war.

Invitations to attend have been sent to Australian research workers but no replies have been received. so far; and it is likely that invitations will also go

to Britain and America. The meetings, some of which will be held at the Dominion Museum and others at Victoria University College, will be occupied mainly with the reading of papers covering scientific work in many fields.

### Accent on Social Science

Dr. Salmon said that very probably some stress will be laid on social science, with a discussion of this subject from all angles; erosion and afforestation, too, are likely to be thoroughly investigated. Members will have the help of visual aids, including epidiascopes, lanterns, and 16mm. and 35mm. projectors for sound and silent films. The list of subjects comprises the physical, chemical, botanical, zoological, geological, medical, geographical, ethnological, technological, and social sciences. But so far, Dr. Salmon said, there is no indication that atomic energy will be in the programme; still, it is quite possible that someone may present a paper dealing with developments in this field.



Spencer Digby photograph  
DR. J. T. SALMON  
A complex agenda

Arranging for a gathering of scientists is no light task. Several meetings will be conducted concurrently, each with its own chairman, and with Dr. W. N. Benson, B.A., D.Sc., F.R.S., F.G.S., F.R.G.S., F.R.S.N.Z., of Otago, as president. Co-operating in the discussions will be the New Zealand Institute of Chemistry, the

(continued on next page)

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