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PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING

of Saturday October 29th 1898.

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The following papers were read:

International Catalogue. — Prof. D. J. KORTEWEG reads the following Report:

The interest, which many members of our Academy have shown in the issue of the second International Catalogue Conference, held in Londen from Oct. 11th to 13th, as well as the circumstance that our Academy has declared itself willing to contribute towards the part, which the Netherlands are to take in the work, being well executed (see the Proceedings of the ordinary meeting of Nov. 28th 1896), have induced me here to give a short account of what has been done since the holding of the first conference, in July 1896.

To some extent this account is to be considered as a sequel to my communication, published in the Proceedings of our meeting of Sept. 26th 1896. As I did then I shall now again confine myself as much as possible to those points that may be considered to be of more lasting interest to science.

The former conference had addressed itself to the Royal Society requesting that this Society might appoint a committee for studying and reporting all questions regarding the Catalogue that still remained unsettled.

In compliance with this request a copious report, dated March 30th 1898, was sent to the different governments and to the delegates of the former conference. These last were requested to state their personal remarks in an inofficial manner.

This report, which we will call the Report of the Royal Society-Committee, contained in the *first place* further proposals regarding the international organization to be introduced. One of these concerned the instituting of an International Council and of International Conventions, besides the Central Bureau in London and the National or, as they are now called, Regional Bureaux, the establishment of which had already been resolved upon by the first conference and which are to do the regular work of composing the Catalogue.

The International Council, formed by delegates of the Regional Bureaux, one for each, was to meet at least once in every three years in London and was to constitute the governing body of the Catalogue. It has however to submit to the decisions of the International Conventions, which shall be held in 1905, in 1910 and after that every tenth year, the members being appointed by the governments participating in the organization.

A further proposal tended to institute for each science an International Committee of Referees, consisting of five members, appointed by the International Council. It is to this Committee that the director of the Central Bureau shall have to apply on the arising of difficulties in the application of the classification-schedule, drawn up for that particular science. Changes of and additions to the schedule, which the Central Bureau deems desirable, are submitted to its approval, while it has the right independently to introduce such changes and additions.

In the *second place* the costs of the enterprise were estimated in this report.

This was done on three different suppositions, *firstly*, that only

a Book-Catalogue shall be issued; *secondly*, that moreover a primary Slip-Catalogue shall be edited, with this restriction however that but one slip has to be issued for each publication (book, paper etc.); *thirdly*, that a secondary Slip-Catalogue shall be composed in which each paper has to be represented by one slip for every subject treated therein, so far as these subjects give rise to different entries in the Book-Catalogue; every effort being made however to prevent an excessive extension of the number of slips pertaining to one paper.

As a result of the committee's estimates and calculations it appeared that on the *first* supposition the receipts probably will cover the expenses, if not at once at least after a certain period; that this may be the case even on the *second* supposition; but that it can hardly be expected on the *third* supposition.

In the *third place* the report of the Royal Society-Committee contained classification-schedules, worked out for most of the sciences that have to be treated in the Catalogue.

In these schedules, the construction of which differs considerably for the different sciences, according to the particular demands of each science, ample room has been left everywhere for changes and extensions, that may be desirable in future. The registration-symbols and numbers only play a subordinate part. They are technically indispensable to the work of the Central Bureau and for arranging the slips of the Slip-Catalogue. Acquaintance therewith however may be considered as wholly or to a great extent superfluous to him who uses the Catalogue.

When too many entries should come under the same heading, a further sub-division may be attained by the introduction of „significant words“ which may afterwards, if desirable, be transformed into new headings. In this way a natural growth of the classification will be arrived at, keeping up with the development of science.

Taking into account this in my opinion very suitable construction of the book-catalogue and the circumstance, that the instituting of Committees of Referees seems to me a sufficient guarantee that the needs and demands of the real scientific workers in the different sciences will be decisive, I complied with the above-mentioned request of the Royal Society-Committee by stating that my personal opinion was in favour of the project in general. At the same time I subjected the mathematical schedule to a closer examination and added some remarks on the classification-schedules of more general tendency.

In the second conference now held, this Report of the Royal Society-Committee was made the base of the deliberations, in order to come as much as possible to a decision on the subjects contained therein.

Amongst the conclusions so arrived at I have to mention in the *first place* those concerning the international organization.

The establishment of an International Council and of International Conventions, constituted as proposed by the Royal Society-Committee, that is to say as described above, was accepted by the conference.

The instituting of the International Committees of Referees on the other hand was referred for consideration to the International Council when constituted.

In the *second place* resolutions were passed on the arrangement of the catalogue.

Notwithstanding the greater costs that will be incurred by it, the maintaining of the slip-catalogue, besides the book-catalogue, was urgently insisted on from many sides. The resolution taken by the former conference of editing the catalogue in *both* forms was unanimously confirmed. It was however deemed necessary to make the financial prospects of the enterprise, which cannot at present be rightly estimated, decide on the question whether only the primary slip-catalogue or also the secondary one will have to be issued.

This last course was thought very desirable in itself, as it offers the only means of collecting and keeping together the complete slips for each particular branch of science. The hope was expressed that a suitable arrangement of the secondary slips might greatly reduce the large difference of cost which, according to the report of the Royal Society-Committee, would exist between the two forms of the slip-catalogue.

As to the classification-schedules in the *third place*, it was resolved that separate schedules shall be composed for the following sciences:

Mathematics; Astronomy; Meteorology; Physics; Cristallography; Chemistry; Mineralogy; Geology (including Petrology); Geography (only the Mathematical and the Physical part); Paleontology; Anatomy; Zoology; Botany; Physiology (including Pharmacology and Experimental Pathology); Bacteriology; Psychology; Anthropology.

For the rest the assembly confined itself to draw up some very general rules for the construction of these schedules, the further development of which is left to a provisional International Committee, which probably shall appoint experts for every branch to assist in the working out. In many cases certainly the provisional classification-schedule, added to the Report of the Royal Society-Committee, may serve as a base.

Appointed at first to judge of and to fix the classification-schedules, the Provisional International Committee has at the same time been invested with the extensive power of taking resolutions on different questions left undecided by the conference, regarding the construction of the catalogue. This committee will have to frame a report, not later than July 31st 1899; which will be incorporated in the decisions of the conference.

It cannot be denied that the task of this International Committee is a heavy one. In order to render it somewhat easier and to give to all opinions an opportunity of making themselves heard, the delegates have been charged with the formation of local committees, each in his own country, to consider the questions left undecided and to report there on to the International Committee within six months.

In my opinion these committees will indeed be able to do useful work. For if it might appear that there was but little difference of opinion on matters of importance, the decisions of the International Committee would certainly be facilitated. The clear exposition of the different questions in the report of the Royal Society-Committee raises a well founded expectation that such concordances will take place.

I venture to express the hope, that the Committee of our Academy, which has already formerly occupied itself with the International Catalogue, will by its cooperation enable me to fulfil this part of my charge.

Conformable to the above the President promises again to convocate the Committee which has on former occasions given advice on the International Catalogue.

Physiology. — Prof. C. WINKLER on: „*Attention and respiration*”.

§ 1. *Introduction.*

The present physiology of the cortex of the brain justly attaches great importance to the idea of association. Since it has been proved that different functions may be ascribed to different parts of the cortex of the brain, it has become necessary on anatomical grounds to suppose connections between those parts, moreover to assume on clinical grounds, that in psychical processes these connections are used.