and scorpions and even Limulus seem to contribute to this importance.

In a work on the Arachnida and for that matter, on any Arthropod class it is impossible to avoid extensive classification and the monotony of this has been successfully dispelled by the "excursus" which the author appends to every chapter. Many of these are full of interest to the layman, and all to the naturalist. In one, on "The Arachnida as formidable animals" (page 113), the author discusses the psychology of fear and accounts for the terror that spiders and scorpions infuse in our minds as due to the rapid movements that these animals exhibit. While granting that rapidity of movement is one of the contributory causes of fear, it should be said that it is only one of the causes. Nor is it a reason in all cases of fear. A swiftly darting bird does not infuse terror and after all, a dead scorpion induces fear just as much as a moving, very much alive one. Several other topics of general interest are dealt with in these little essays and the book closes with a full bibliography and a complete index.

B. R. S.

Functions and Organisation of the India Meteorological Department.*

IN an interesting pamphlet entitled "Functions and Organisation of the India Meteorological Department, 1935," the Meteorological Office, Poona, has summarised the various functions of the Department and has described briefly the organisation that exists at present for carrying on these duties. The list is comprehensive and contains all the important phases of the work usually dealt with by similar institutions in other progressive countries. Increasing attention has, of late, been given to the problems of upper air, chiefly owing to their importance in connection with aviation; but it is admitted that the meteorological service for this purpose still falls short of the minimum recommended by the International Convention.

Besides meteorology, the activities of the Department include some branches of allied sciences such as seismology and terrestrial magnetism. Thus geophysical researches form part of the routine duties at the Colaba and Alibag Observatories while the Observatory at Kodaikanal, South India, specialises in the study of solar physics and has undertaken some work in co-operation with the International Astronomical Union. Mention is made also of the seismographs that have been maintained at a few stations for the systematic recording of earthquakes.

It is interesting to note that a section for agricultural meteorology has been recently established at the headquarters of the Department, at the Instance of the Imperial Council of Agricultural research. Besides statistical investigations, the section makes a special study of microclimatology and generally carries on researches on problems affecting the welfare of the crops. In view of the supreme importance of this branch of the subject to an agricultural country like India the results of these investigations will ultimately prove to be of considerable practical value. A brief outline is also given of some features of the developments that are contemplated as soon as financial conditions permit; and the note concludes with four appendices giving extracts relating to meteorology from the proceedings of International Conventions and the Royal Commission on Agriculture in India.

* Functions and Organisation of the India Meteorological Department. 1935. Meteorological Office, Poona.

The Indore Meeting of the Science Congress.

ARRANGEMENTS are now actively in hand for the forthcoming meeting of the Indian Science Congress Association in Indore. As usual, the date of the meeting is from the 2nd to the 8th of January, 1935, thus enabling members to avail themselves of the Christmas concession on the railways. In addition, the railway authorities have been approached with regard to granting further concessions, but their decision in the matter will not be known until after the Railway Association has met at Simla in October.

The meeting is being held under the patronage of H. H. Maharajadhiraj Raj Rajeshwar Sawai Shree Yeshwant Rao Holkar Bahadur, Maharaja of Indore. In accordance with the alteration which was made last year in regard to the President's term of office, Dr. J. H. Hutton will remain President of the Association until he hands over his office at the Inaugural Meeting to the President-Elect, who is Rai Sir Upendranath Brahmachari, Bahadur, KT., M.A., M.D., Ph.D., F.S.M.F., F.A.S.B.

At the last meeting of the Congress, held in Calcutta, two alterations were made in the list of Sections. The name of the Geology Section was changed to "Geology and Geography," thus indicating that papers on geography would be accepted; while a new section for Physiology was added, thus bringing the number of Sections upto 10.

The names and addresses of the Sectional Presidents are as follows:—

1. *Mathematics and Physics.*—Dr. T. Royds, D.Sc., Director, Kodaikanal Observatory, Kodaikanal, S. India.

2. *Chemistry.*—Dr. P. C. Guha, D.Sc., Professor of Organic Chemistry, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.
3. *Geology and Geography.*—B. Rama Rao, Esq., M.A., Mysore Geological Department, Bangalore.
4. *Botany.*—Dr. S. R. Bose, D.Sc., F.R.S.E., F.L.S., Professor of Botany, Carmichael Medical College, Belgachia, Calcutta.
5. *Zoology.*—Dr. H. K. Mukherjee, D.Sc., D.I.C., University Professor and Head of the Department of Zoology, Calcutta University, 35, Ballygunge Circular Road, Calcutta.
6. *Anthropology.*—H. C. Chakladar, Esq., M.A., Lecturer in Anthropology, Calcutta University, 28–4, Srimohan Lane, Kalighat, Calcutta.
7. *Agriculture.*—Mr. A. K. Yegna Narayan Aiyer, M.A., Dip. in Agri. (Cantab.), N.D.D., F.C.S., Retired Director of Agriculture, Sankarapuram, Bangalore.
8. *Medical and Veterinary Research.*—Lt.-Col. H. E. Shortt, I.M.S., Director, King Institute, Guindy, Madras.
9. *Physiology.*—Dr. W. Burridge, D.M., M.A. (Oxon.), Professor of Physiology, University of Lucknow, Lucknow.
10. *Psychology.*—J. M. Sen, Esq., M.Ed. (Leeds), B.Sc. (Cal.), F.R.G.S., Inspector of Schools, Presidency Division, Bengal, 63, Lansdowne Road, Calcutta.

Papers should be submitted to the Sectional Presidents concerned by the 15th of September. A little extra time will be allowed to contributors in the Punjab.

One of the primary purposes of the Association is to encourage scientific work in different parts of India. This year it is meeting in Indore for the first time, and it is hoped that a large number of members will attend and help to stimulate scientific research in that part of India.

Indore, in addition to being fairly centrally situated for scientists from Western and North-western India, offers many attractions both in the City itself and in its immediate neighbourhood. Owing its origin to the great movement for Mahratta imperialist expansion of the 18th century, Indore at present enjoys the premier position among the States included in the Central India Agency.

The City of Indore is situated 1,738 feet above the sea-level and has a delightful climate and moderate rainfall. It ranks amongst the great industrial towns of India, having flourishing cotton-mills and an expanding population now estimated at about 1,50,000 people. It is an important educational centre, containing two first-grade colleges (one of which is maintained by the State), a number of high schools for boys and girls and other institutions. In the Civil Area are situated the Daly College (an institution for the sons of Chiefs), which is a fine building of white marble, the Plant Institute, and a Medical School. Indore also contains many places and buildings worth seeing. A few miles from the City is Badarkha, where up-to-date water works (with the largest siphon system in the world) are nearing completion.

About 60 miles from Indore and situated in Dhar State is Mandu, a favourite haunt of tourists and students of India's past history. Once the proud capital of the independent Muslim kingdom of Malwa and a fort of unparalleled natural strength, it now contains extensive ruins of mosques, palaces and other buildings of great architectural merit. Not far off from it is Bagh (in Gwalior State), which is famous for its rock-cut caves of great antiquity. About forty miles to the south of Indore is Mandhata, an island of superb natural beauty in the Nerbudda river, the early capital of Indore State, which contains a palace and a marble statue of the saintly Ahilya Bai, one of the most illustrious rulers of the State and of India. Not very far off from Indore and easily connected by railway are Ujjain, one of the most ancient and sacred cities of India, Sanchi (in Bhopal State) with its famous stupa supposed to date from the time of the great Asoka, Chitore the most historic place in Rajputana, and the world-celebrated Ajanta caves.

The Local Secretaries will be Dr. S. S. Deshpande, Vice-Principal and Professor of Chemistry, Holkar College, Indore, and Mr. K. A. Patwardhan, Daly College, Indore, to whom all enquiries as to accommodation should be addressed. It is particularly requested that very early intimation of the accommodation required should be sent to the Local Secretaries.

W. D. WEST.

Sir Richard Arman Gregory, Bt., F.R.S. and Dr. Arnold Berliner, Dr.Phil.

WE are glad to announce that Sir Richard Gregory and Dr. Arnold Berliner have accepted our invitation to act as Associate Editors of *Current Science*, and we have no doubt that this news will give widespread satisfaction among those interested in the progress of the Journal.

We have had the privilege of meeting Sir Richard and Lady Gregory during their visit to this country in January and February of 1933 and of discussing with him about the affairs connected with *Current Science*. We need hardly say that we are deeply indebted to him for the numerous suggestions which he offered at the time, and since his return to England, he has maintained his interest in this Journal.

Dr. Arnold Berliner has not visited India but we hope that he will be able to come over at an early date and spend a pleasant time among his numerous friends in this country. We would be glad to offer welcome to him on behalf of our numerous readers and there will always be generous hospitality for him in this country.

The service which Sir Richard Gregory and Dr. Arnold Berliner are rendering to the cause of Science is indeed conspicuous. Their association with their respective Journals during the past thirty years or more has rendered the publications unique. To every Scientist *Nature* and *Naturwissenschaften* are as familiar and indispensable as the objects by which they are surrounded in their Laboratory. Their knowledge and experience will be of great assistance to us in shaping the destiny of *Current Science* and when this assistance is coupled with the advice and co-operation for which we are always indebted to the members of the Board of Co-operators, *Current Science* is bound to become the Indian counterpart of *Nature* and *Naturwissenschaften*.