

Government of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1908.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 736, 30th October 1908.

Conference of Curators of Museums in India.

Communicating to the Superintendent, Government Museum, a copy of the report of the — with certain observations of the Government of India on the resolutions passed by the Conference.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers :—

I

G.O., No. 204, Educational, dated 18th March 1908.

ABSTRACT.—Recording copy of the preliminary report on the Conference of Curators of Museums in India held at the Indian Museum, Calcutta, in December 1907.

II

Letter—from B. ROBERTSON, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry (Practical Arts and Museums).

To—the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Educational Department.

Dated—Simla, the 6th October 1908.

No.—9212-9218-9.

In continuation of Mr. Gubbay's letter, No. 2324-2330-9, dated the 4th March 1908, I am directed to forward for your information a copy of a report containing the full proceedings of and the resolutions passed by the Conference of Curators of Museums in India which was held in December 1907. I am to communicate the following remarks on the resolutions passed by the Conference.

2. In Resolutions IV and VI, the Conference recommends considerable increases in the expert staff of the Central Museum at Calcutta and in the skilled subordinate staff both of the Indian and of Provincial Museums, and the appointment of an expert taxidermist from Europe or America. Proposals for increasing the expert staff of the Indian Museum have already occupied the attention of the Government of India for some time. The question of increasing the establishments of the Provincial Museums is one which the Government of India leave to the Local Governments for such action as they may consider necessary. For the present, at any rate, it is unlikely that the Government of India will be in a position to carry out the Curators' recommendation for the appointment of an expert taxidermist, but Local Governments are at liberty to address the Trustees of the Indian Museum, should they consider it necessary, with a view to making such arrangements as may be possible with the existing staff of the Museum for the training of local men in taxidermy.

3. Resolutions XII to XIV deal with the discontinuance of the existing publications on Art, and their replacement by a serial publication to be edited and conducted in the same manner as the Memoirs of the Scientific Departments. The Conference have not suggested any practical means by which their suggestions may be carried out, and their proposals will be reserved for separate consideration by the Government of India.

4. The remainder of the Resolutions passed by the Conference consist mainly of suggestions and advice for the guidance of those responsible for the management of Museums, and require no comments from the Government of India. They are glad to recognize the useful nature of the work done by the Conference, and I am to ask that they may be favoured with an expression of His Excellency's opinion on the proposals contained in Resolutions XXVIII to XXXII for holding future Conferences triennially, and for the appointment of a Standing Committee for the purpose.

No. 9219-9220-9.

A copy, with a copy of the report, is forwarded to the Foreign Department, in continuation of endorsement, No. 2331-9, dated 4th March 1908, with the request that this Department may be favoured with the opinion of the Native States concerned on Resolutions Nos. XXVIII to XXXII.

A copy is also forwarded to the Secretary to the Trustees of the Indian Museum, Natural History Section, for information, with reference to his letter, No. 798, dated the 10th June 1908.

(By Order.)

B. ROBERTSON,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Order—No. 736, Educational, 30th October 1908.

A copy of the report of the full proceedings of and the resolutions passed by the Conference of Curators of Museums in India which was held in December 1907, will be communicated to the Superintendent, Government Museum, with the following observations of the Government of India on the resolutions passed by the Conference.

2. *Resolutions IV and VI.*—The Conference recommends considerable increases in the staff of the Central Museum at Calcutta and in the skilled subordinate staff both of the Indian and of Provincial Museums, and the appointment of an expert taxidermist from Europe or America. Proposals for increasing the expert staff of the Indian Museum have already occupied the attention of the Government of India for some time, while as regards the Curators' recommendation for the appointment of an expert taxidermist, the Government of India consider that, for the present at any rate, it is unlikely that they will be in a position to carry it out. With regard to the question of increasing the skilled subordinate staff of the Madras Museum, the Superintendent will be requested to report whether any and if so, what increase is considered necessary. He will also report whether he considers it necessary that any one from Madras should be sent to the Indian Museum for training in taxidermy.

3. *Resolutions XII to XIV.*—These resolutions deal with the discontinuance of the existing publications on art and their replacement by a serial publication to be edited and conducted in the same manner as the memoirs of the scientific departments. The Government of India consider that the Conference have not suggested any practical means by which their suggestion may be carried out and have reserved the Curators' proposals for separate consideration.

4. The other resolutions passed by the Conference consist mainly of suggestions and advice for the guidance of those responsible for the management of the Museum and require no comments. The Government of India are glad to recognise the useful nature of the work done by the Conference and ask for an expression of opinion on the proposals contained in Resolutions XXVIII to XXXII for holding future Conferences triennially and for the appointment of a Standing Committee for the purpose. The Superintendent, Government Museum, will be requested to submit his remarks on these proposals at an early date.

(True Extract.)

H. D. TAYLOR,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintendent, Government Museum,
" Director of Public Instruction,
" Superintendent, School of Arts, through the
Director of Public Instruction, } with copy of report.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O., No. 736, EDUCATIONAL, DATED
30TH OCTOBER 1908.

[SUBJECT.—*Report of the Conference as regards museums in India.*]

Previous papers.

G.O., Nos. 23, 24, Educational, dated 17th January	1906.
" No. 361 " " 11th June	1907.
" " 204 " " 18th March	1908.

From the Government of India, dated 6th October 1908, No. 9221-9.

The report may be communicated to the Superintendent, Government Museum, the Director of Public Instruction and the Superintendent, School of Arts.

2. In paragraph 2 of their letter forwarding the report, the Government of India leave the question of increasing the skilled sub-staff of the Provincial museums to Local Government and in paragraph 4 they ask for an expression of opinion on the proposals for holding future Conferences triennially and for the appointment of a standing committee for the purpose. The Superintendent, Government Museum, may be requested to report upon these points.

3. A draft is submitted for approval.

T.K.—21-10-08.

On the advance copy of India's letter and the report of the Conference submitted to him for perusal, the Hon'ble Mr. Forbes observed "very interesting".

K. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR—21-10-08.

C. A. SOUTER—28-10-08.

For approval.

H. D. TAYLOR—29-10-08.

G. S. F[ORBES]—30-10-08.

Issue.

H. D. TAYLOR—30-10-08.

[G.O., No. 736, Educational, dated 30th October 1908.]

6 Copies
Sent to
Major
J. P. N. 736
30.10.08

Educational Department
13-10-08

Report
OF THE
Conference as regards Museums
in India

Held at Calcutta on
Dec. 27th to 31st, 1907



CALCUTTA
SUPERINTENDENT GOVERNMENT PRINTING, INDIA
1908

6

**Report of the Conference as regards Museums in India
held in Calcutta, December 27th-31st, 1907.**

The Conference was summoned by the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry, in order to give representatives of different local governments and native states an opportunity of discussing their future policy as regards local museums with one another and with the Trustees of the central (Indian) museum in Calcutta. Each Government or State was invited to send one or more delegates to the Conference, and it was laid down that the delegates should not necessarily be officers directly connected with the management of a museum. The Trustees were also invited to nominate delegates and to make arrangements in Calcutta for holding the conference.

The following delegates were nominated :—

By the Government of Madras,

MR. E. THURSTON, L.R.C.P., F.R.M.S., &c., Superintendent of the Government Museum, Madras.

By the Government of Bombay,

THE HON'BLE MR. IBRAHIM RAHIMTOOLA, C.I.E., and MR. C. L. BURNS, Principal of the School of Art, Bombay.

By the Government of the United Provinces,

MR. R. BURN, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner, Gonda, and MR. G. D. GANGULI, Curator of the Provincial Museum, Lucknow.

By the Government of the Punjab,

MR. PERCY BROWN, A.R.C.A., Principal of the School of Art, Lahore, and SARDAR SAHIB BHAI RAM SINGH, Vice-Principal of the same institution.

By the Trustees of the Indian Museum,

The Chairman of the Trustees (MR. T. H. HOLLAND, F.R.S., Director of the Geological Survey of India), the Superintendent of the Natural History Section (DR. N. ANNANDALE, D.Sc.), and the Superintendent of the Industrial Section (MR. I. H. BURKILL, M.A.). These officers were also invited to represent the interests of the Government of Bengal.

By the Hon. the Agent to the Governor General in Central India,
MR. PERCY HIDE, M.A., Principal, Daly College, Indore.

By the Hon. the Agent to the Governor General in Baluchistan,
MR. J. W. N. CUMMING, Honorary Secretary and Curator, Quetta Museum.

By the Mysore Darbar,

MR. J. CAMERON, Superintendent, Government Museum, Bangalore.

By the Kashmir Darbar,

DR. A. MITRA, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., Curator, Srinagar Museum.

By the Baroda Darbar,

DR. M. K. KANGA, M.A., Director of the State Museum, Baroda.

By the Bhopal Darbar,

SYED ENAYET KARIM.

By the Meywar Darbar,

PANDIT GOURI SHANKAR, Superintendent, Public Library and Museum, Udaipur.

PROGRAMME OF THE MEETINGS.

The conference assembled at the Indian Museum on Friday, December 27th, 1907, at 10 A.M.

All the delegates were present, with the exception of those from the Punjab (who telegraphed that they had been unavoidably detained on their journey) and of Mr. R. Burn from the United Provinces, who wrote that local duties connected with famine would prevent his attending the conference.

The Chair was taken by the Hon'ble Mr. J. F. Finlay, C.S.I., Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, who had kindly consented to convene the meeting. After welcoming the delegates to Calcutta and explaining briefly the genesis of the conference he called upon the meeting to elect a chairman. Mr. E. Thurston (Madras) proposed the name of Mr. T. H. Holland, who had taken a very active part in the preparations for the conference. The proposal was seconded by Mr. J. Cameron (Mysore) and carried unanimously.

Mr. Holland then delivered an inaugural address from the chair, which was vacated by Mr. Finlay.

Dr. Annandale was elected Honorary Secretary to the Conference on the proposal of the Chairman, which was seconded by Mr. Cameron (Mysore) and carried unanimously.

The topics to be discussed by the Conference were then considered and the following list was drawn up:—

1. Systematic exchange of duplicates and casts of unique specimens.
2. Provincial organization of collecting in the field.
3. The publication of results.
4. Disposal of type specimens, their registration in catalogues distributed for information of workers. The registration of new specimens.
5. Classification of public exhibits and reference collections.
6. Methods for the preservation of specimens and labels specially suitable to the climate.
7. Recognized special functions of particular Provincial Museums.
8. The preparation of guides for the public.
9. Art sale rooms in connection with Museums.
10. Certain questions as to details of Museum management put forward by the delegate from Baluchistan.
11. Financial aspects of Museums.
12. The question of separating the Botanical collections from the Lucknow Provincial Museum for the purpose of handing over the specimens to the Horticultural Gardens, Lucknow.
13. Question of an Annual Museum Conference.

It was agreed on the proposal of the Chairman, that each topic should be introduced by one of the delegates, but that the discussion should be informal. As no stenographer was present, each delegate who spoke on any topic was requested to send his remarks in writing to the Honorary Secretary to be incorporated in the report of the conference. It was agreed that a sub-committee should be appointed to summarize the discussion at the end of each meeting and draft resolutions based thereon.

The first topic was then introduced and discussed by the delegates present and the meeting was adjourned to allow the delegates from the Punjab to take part in the discussion.

On Sunday, December 29th, the delegates inspected the different sections of the Indian Museum informally.

The conference re-assembled at 10-30 A.M. on Monday, December 30th, Mr. Percy Brown and Sardar Sahib Bhai Ram Singh being present in addition to those who had attended the preliminary meeting. The Honorary Secretary announced that the former gentlemen had expressed their opinion in writing as to the questions discussed at the previous meeting. The following topics were then introduced and discussed:—

1. Provincial organization of collecting in the field.
2. The publication of results.

3. Disposal of type specimens, their registration in catalogues distributed for information of workers. The registration of new specimens.
4. Classification of public exhibits and reference collections.
5. Methods for the preservation of specimens and labels specially suitable to the climate.
6. Recognized special functions of particular Provincial Museums.
7. The preparation of guides for the public.
8. Art sale rooms in connection with Museums.
9. Financial aspects of Museums.

It was agreed that Mr. Cumming (Baluchistan) should discuss the various questions put forward by him with the heads of the Natural History and Industrial Sections of the Indian Museum.

The meeting was then adjourned until the following morning.

On Thursday, December 31st, at 10-30 A.M., it met to discuss the last two items of the agenda, and in the afternoon of the same day a final meeting was held in order that the resolutions agreed upon by the conference might be formally passed, after their wording had been carefully considered.

The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman and the Honorary Secretary, both of whom replied in suitable terms.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN.

GENTLEMEN,

In thanking you for the compliment offered by electing me to be the Chairman of this Conference, I wish to convey to the delegates, on behalf of our Board of Trustees, a welcome to the Indian Museum.

As a supplement to the remarks made by the Hon'ble Mr. Finlay, who has explained the objects of our Conference, I might give a brief indication of the origin of the proposal to hold a conference in Calcutta. About three years ago, when we found that the Indian Museum was attaining dimensions too unwieldy for the present system of control, we had to face two alternative reforms—either the linking up of all sections under the administrative control of a single Director, who would also be the Inspector-General of Museums in India, or the division of the Museum into natural sections with independence as far as their purely internal affairs are concerned.

The questions involved have been very thoroughly discussed during the past three years by the Trustees of the Indian Museum, the Government of India and the Local Governments, the result being that the Government of India have now finally accepted, as the best solution of our difficulties, the breaking up of the institution into five distinct sections. The section dealing with Geology will remain as before under the Director of the Geological Survey. The other collections now under the control of a Board of Trustees will be divided into four sections—(a) Archæology, which will be handed over to the control of the Director-General of Archæology; (b) objects of industrial and fine art will be put under the control of the Principal of the School of Art, whose institution adjoins the Museum; (c) industrial collections will be placed under the Reporter on Economic Products; and (d) collections relating to Zoology and Anthropology will be administered by a Superintendent directly responsible to the Board of Trustees.

In addition to the administration of the Zoological and Anthropological Museum by powers similar to those now possessed, the Trustees of the Indian Museum will act as an advisory body to Government with regard to the other sections. They will also control regulations relating to the compound, rules regarding the admission of the public, and the discipline of the servants; but the purely scientific work of the sections will be under the control of the departments to which they in future will be linked.

The organization thus projected for the Indian Museum differs in one essential principle from that of the Provincial Museums in India and most Museums in Europe. In the case of Provincial Museums, the collections are

generally too small to permit of the entertainment of specialists for each division of natural knowledge. The system of administration now accepted for the Indian Museum would, therefore, not be practicable from the financial point of view for such institutions. The Madras Museum is an instance of an institution that approaches the stage requiring specialization, but as a Provincial type it has attained, under the management of Mr. Thurston, what should be regarded as an ideal Museum of the kind. In most European Museums, the conditions attached to legacies and bequests, as well as the complicated vested interests involved, make it difficult, and in some cases impossible, now to introduce a system of administration which some of us regard as a more scientific classification of functions than the system of placing a compound Museum, including exhibits of all classes, under one Director. The collections in the Indian Museum have now attained dimensions that necessitate and justify the employment of separate scientific specialists for the various natural sections. Fortunately, on reaching this stage, we are still but slightly tied by vested interests, and the Government have now decided to adopt the principle of decentralisation before the machine has reached a state of complication too great to permit of the application of the new system of classification. It has been decided, with sanction of the Secretary of State, to introduce during the next session an Act in Council which will permit of the required devolution of responsibilities and the corresponding reform in the constitution of the Board of Trustees.

With the formulation of a satisfactory scheme of reorganization for the Indian Museum, arose the question of our relationship to the Provincial Museums. The alternative scheme provided for the appointment of an Inspector-General, whose duties would be to bring the Central Museum into correspondence with those in the provinces for the purposes of exchanging specimens, and generally to bring all the institutions to a more uniform and higher level of efficiency. To meet the loss of this feature of the scheme that provided for a single Director of the Indian Museum and Inspector-General of Museums in India, Mr. Cousens of Poona suggested that some of the functions of the proposed Inspector-General might be accomplished by periodical conferences of Curators. As the responsibilities and qualifications of the Curators differ almost as widely from one another as their Museums do, it appeared to be dangerous to draw up a definite system for organising periodical conferences without first making an experimental test of the scheme proposed. Consequently the Government of India invited the Local Governments and States to send representatives to a Conference to be held in Calcutta during the present cold weather and the delegates now assembled have come in reply to this invitation.

The questions which I have suggested for discussion deal mainly with problems that specially concern museum curators in India. When we have shown that we can discuss these with profit, we shall be in a position to make recommendations regarding the future organization of conferences if they appear to be practicable and likely to lead to profit. The first item of business to undertake is the appointment of a Secretary for the present Conference, and as Dr. Annandale has acted in this capacity so far for the Local Committee, and has the machinery at hand for the clerical work necessary, I would suggest his name as Secretary of the Conference.

SUMMARY OF DEBATES WITH RESOLUTIONS PASSED.

First subject—moved by DR. ANNANDALE,

"Systematic exchange of duplicates and casts of unique specimens."

I. Dr. Annandale, Superintendent of the Natural History Section of the Indian Museum, opened the debate. He stated that the Indian Museum possessed large stores of duplicate zoological specimens, which he would be very pleased to distribute. This was rendered impossible at present by the smallness of the Museum staff, both as regards trained zoologists and as regards trustworthy subordinates skilled in the sorting and packing of

specimens. Such subordinates were difficult to obtain in India and had to be trained in the Museum. It was most important that no specimen should be sent out from a scientific institution with a name that was not absolutely authentic. In the case of a few groups of animals the Museum would be glad to receive and classify collections in exchange for a proportion of the specimens, but the high degree of specialization to which the science of zoology had attained made it impossible at present to undertake work of the kind except to a very limited extent. The Indian Museum was always glad to receive duplicate specimens from Provincial Museums, because, except in a very few groups of animals, the fauna of India was still practically unknown. Nothing was too common to be of value; specimens which were not wanted for the Museum itself could generally be exchanged for others that were wanted from European or American Museums. The Indian Museum was the central Museum for the whole of India and as such was bound both to help Provincial Museums and to ask help from them. Its main function, so far as the Natural History Section was concerned, was to collect and preserve for reference as complete a collection of the Indian Fauna as was possible and to do such research upon the accumulated material as would elucidate the varied problems connected with the zoology of the Indian Empire and the surrounding countries.

II. Mr. Holland mentioned that, as regards geological specimens, he had undertaken for the Nagpur Museum to name the mineral and geological exhibits, and to add from time to time specimens collected by the Geological Survey officers who were working in the Central Provinces. But the offer was made and accepted on the understanding that unique specimens, types and material of exceptional scientific value found in the Nagpur collections should be transferred to Calcutta. As no other Museum in the country contains a sufficient number of such specimens to make their retention the foundation of a reference collection for any branch of geology, the same system might be adopted for all the Museums in India, without fear of diminishing their average worth; on the other hand the Provincial Museums would all gain largely by the adoption of this proposal. Obviously such a system could not be applied indiscriminately to all subjects; for instance, Archaeology and Numismatics are represented by first class reference collections in some Provincial Museums.

His principal difficulty in effecting exchanges and in making donations to other Museums was, as explained by Dr. Annandale, insufficiency of staff to do the purely mechanical work of sorting out, packing and cataloguing the duplicate material that could readily be spared for other museums. It was also difficult to learn what was most required by the Provincial Museums; but this difficulty might be removed and the other partially obviated by the Provincial Curators themselves taking the opportunity, when in Calcutta, to select from among our collection of duplicates, the specimens they require. It would be perfectly easy to grant facilities for such a practice as far as Geology was concerned.

One of the chief defects of the geological collections was poverty in the commonest types of rocks and minerals, such as ordinary quartzites, sandstones and shales. These naturally, presenting no features generally of scientific interest, were not collected ordinarily by officers in the field; but they were wanted in considerable numbers for the use of students in the various Colleges and Museums of India. The Geological Survey proposed, therefore, as soon as practicable, to appoint two or three collectors, whose duties would be to sample occurrences of unusual value, to collect hand-specimens of the commoner rock-types, and, so far as possible, to make up collections to be given as donations to the smaller Museums and Colleges.

III. Commenting on these subjects Mr. Cameron (Mysore) enquired what arrangements could be made to meet charges for packing and forwarding such specimens, and suggested that while the Indian Museum would probably meet its own charges the Provincial Museums should do the same. He also warmly supported the Chairman's suggestion that representatives from Provincial Museums might be allowed to visit the Indian Museum for the purpose of making approved selections from time to time and that on such

occasions they should not come empty-handed, but bring duplicates that may be required at Calcutta from their own Museum.

IV. *Mr. Burkill* said that he could supply duplicate material as worked up and would prefer to do it on indent. He did not demand a definite *quid pro quo*, believing that a good understanding was far better than any contract.

V. *Mr. Thurston* (Madras) suggested that the zoological section of the Indian Museum might be glad to receive duplicate specimens, even of common species, from the various Provincial Museums, for exhibition, distribution or reference in the reserve collection.

VI. *Mr. Ganguli* (United Provinces) remarked that the best way in which co-operation could be maintained in respect of exchanging duplicate specimens or of procuring new specimens for each museum would be by preparing lists of desiderata and circulating them to institutions which were in a position to supply them. These remarks had special reference to collections of natural history specimens. With the exception of the Indian Museum, Calcutta, few organizations at present existed which were able to meet the requirements of Provincial Museums after supplying their own. With reference to the question raised by Dr. Annandale as to the expense and labour involved in getting up duplicate specimens for Provincial Museums, he remarked that the cost of such specimens should be made a charge on the institution benefited by them, the Government of the Province concerned providing funds to meet the same in cases where it could not be settled by exchange.

VII. *Mr. Burns* (Bombay) said that the question of making casts of museum specimens depended only upon the addition to the staff of museums of a competent moulder. The training of such men could either be undertaken at the four principal Schools of Art, or one of them could open a special section for this purpose. The men to be trained could either be natives of the locality in which the School of Art was situated, or selected men could be sent by Museums to undergo a course of training at the School. The latter proceeding would be, in his opinion, preferable.

VIII. *Mr. Hide* (Central India) suggested that the difficulty of recruiting the subordinate staff of the Indian Museum might be met by sending a circular each year to the Head Masters—and specially the English Head Masters—of large Indian Schools. The circulars would make clear the kind of men wanted and would give an account of the pay and prospects of men employed in the Museum.

IX. With reference to the remarks made by Dr. Annandale regarding the distribution of duplicates in the Indian Museum among other Museums in India, *Mr. Cumming* (Baluchistan) agreed with the Chairman that each Museum should send a representative to Calcutta to make such selection as may be actually required from among the duplicates in question, as many Provincial Museums might not desire or have room for specimens other than those of local interest. As regards Provincial Museums supplying the Indian Museum with specimens he agreed that this was very necessary so far as duplicates were concerned. In the case of single specimens these should be retained by the Provincial Museums concerned; but casts might be supplied or, when practicable, the originals might be sent to the Indian Museum for inspection, registration and return. Where the Indian Museum had only a few duplicates of specimens which might be of use to several museums they might be issued to Museums in the same order as was observed in connection with the distribution of coins.

X. *Dr. Mitra* (Kashmir) suggested that every local Museum should contribute, whenever it was possible to do so, duplicates of specimens which might be of interest and which might not be present in the Indian Museum. The Indian Museum represented the Museums of the Indian Empire and therefore should contain everything which could be found in all parts of the Empire, to which end the local and provincial museums should help. The best specimens of Arts and Industrial products of every part of the Empire should be shown in the Indian Museum. This would, for obvious reasons,

greatly benefit these industries. He should, for instance, like that there should be a "Kashmir Court" in the Indian Museum where representative selections of Kashmir Art Industries might be kept. If the Indian Museum could bear the cost, well and good, but as Kashmir Art Industries would be greatly benefited by such a show he would be greatly pleased to recommend the traders and the Darbar to consider the question of bearing some portion of the cost. Calcutta was visited by people from all parts of the world, so the advantages of such a permanent exhibition of local art industries were obvious. As regards exchanges of specimens, whenever duplicates were available it should be done. Casts of unique specimens or photographs might also be exchanged.

XI. *Mr. Brown* (Punjab) proposed that something might be done with regard to a systematic exchange of reserve specimens, by each Museum publishing at certain intervals (say quarterly) a list of objects of which it has duplicates, and circulating this among other museums. At the same time a few of the more important requirements of the Museum might be indicated in a separate column. He did not say that this would meet the case in its entirety, but it would be a commencement, and might be the means of bringing the Museums at least into touch with one another, leading to larger developments later on. He thought this might be of use where a Curator required a particular specimen to complete a series and was not certain of the locality from which it could be best obtained.

The above was only an alternative to the proposal that Curators should visit each Museum in turn to see what articles were in those Museums of which they require duplicates or casts. What was regarded as a common species in one Museum, might be rare in another, and one for which the Curator of the latter has been searching for years. Correspondence would not bring these cases to light and he thought that they could only be met by personal visits. Some action might be proposed to bring this to the notice of local governments, etc., to enable Curators to make a tour of all the Indian Museums.

XII. *Sardar Sahib Bhai Ram Singh* (Punjab) suggested that the curators of the Indian Museum and of Provincial Museums should arrange occasionally a list, with photographs of the objects of which they had duplicates, and should send it to the other Museums. This system would enable the Curators to pick out such duplicates as they required. It was most essential that the Curators should make occasional visits to the other Museums. A general meeting of the delegates should be held annually, generally in Calcutta, and sometimes in Bombay, Madras, etc., wherever the Conference might appoint from time to time.

In connection with this debate the following resolutions were passed unanimously:—

1. That the systematic exchange of duplicates and of reproduction of unique specimens between the Indian Museum and the Provincial Museums would be beneficial to both from a scientific and economic point of view.
2. That in order to ascertain the wants of the different Museums as regards the duplicates and reproductions, the Superintendent of the Indian Museum should have opportunities of consulting with the officers of the Provincial Museums* from time to time.
3. That lists of duplicate specimens available for distribution in the various Museums should be circulated.
4. That, in order that these proposals should be carried out, it is necessary that there should be a considerable increase in the expert staff of the Central Museum at Calcutta and in the skilled subordinate staff both of the Indian and of Provincial Museums.
5. As the qualities and training necessary for subordinates who have the sorting, cataloguing and distribution of specimens cannot be gauged by the ordinary standard of examination, Directors

* The word "Provincial" in this respect is understood to include Presidency and State Museums.

of Public Instruction in India should be informed of the qualifications necessary for the work and for the prospects of the boys fitted to undertake it, and that selected candidates for the posts in the Provincial Museums should undergo a period of training in the Indian Museum.

Second subject—moved by Mr. J. W. N. CUMMING,

"Provincial organization of collecting in the field."

I. In opening the debate Mr. Cumming stated what had been done in the direction of collections in Baluchistan.

The Quetta Museum and Library building had been formally opened to the public during the autumn of 1906. Prior to this, however, a fairly large and useful collection of works of reference, specimens of local arts, manufacture and economic products, agricultural implements, and objects of archaeological interest had been collected by Mr. Hughes Buller (now of the Bengal Service) in connection with his duties as Superintendent of Imperial Gazetteers, Baluchistan. These were transferred *en bloc* to the Museum. The Museum once opened, gentlemen who were interested in natural history had promptly come forward and generously presented some of their valuable collections of works of reference, shells, birds' eggs, etc., so that the Museum had a good deal of material to start work on immediately. To further the work of collecting the Hon'ble Sir Henry McMahon, Agent to the Governor General, personally interested himself in the matter, convened a public meeting of the Residents of Quetta, there and then formed what is now known as the Baluchistan Natural History Society, of which he himself accepted the Presidentship and induced many of the members to also join the Bombay Natural History Society. The latter Society in return had presented the Baluchistan Society with a complete set of all the back numbers of their journal.

As the space in the museum building was somewhat limited it was made a condition of joining the Baluchistan Natural History Society that members should only contribute to the Museum objects obtained locally and should be most particular in recording on their contributions the locality whence obtained, with date. The formation of this Society had been extremely helpful to the Museum as free contributions of various sorts come in rapidly. In addition gardeners, cultivators and others of the poor class had been induced to bring all the rats, snakes, etc., they could secure and small sums were paid as remuneration for their trouble, so that the Museum obtained the collections by donations, from persons interested in Natural History and also by purchase. The donations, however, came mostly from persons living in and within easy reach of Quetta and gave no trouble. The difficulty arose in connection with the collections further afield in the Province, whence it is impossible to send in to Quetta certain classes of zoological specimens without their going bad, unless previously cured. To meet this difficulty partly Mr. Cumming had asked the British Museum for 30 copies of each of four small pamphlets issued by them containing instructions for the curing of skins of birds, mammals, etc. These on receipt would be distributed among gentlemen living in places distant from Quetta. The authorities of the museum also induced natives in search of employment and willing to do so to come and learn how to skin and cure birds and mammals and what to do with reptiles, etc. On applications being made for the services of such men by officers proceeding on tour or on a shooting excursion these men were recommended for employment and when necessary a small allowance was paid to them by the Museum in addition to what they may receive from their employers. This, however, was a somewhat slow process and it was proposed to recommend to the Museum Committee that Political Agents be asked to send to the Museum one or two men from the Head Quarter stations of their districts, if not from every Tahsil, who could be taught by the Museum taxidermist just what is essentially necessary, and in turn teach others. Officers living away from the railway line in the remote part of the province could then employ these men in any capacity they like and if necessary the Museum might add a small allowance to men who prove useful in curing

specimens sent to it, or to fix a charge for specimens sent by them independently. Shikaris would, Mr. Cumming thought, form a suitable class of men to try this experiment on. Models and specimens of arts and manufacture of considerable value would have to be purchased by the Museum; but this did not come within the scope of the present discussion. Another plan which might be tried would be to invite private collectors to exchange or to bring to the Museum their collections for inspection, casts or descriptions and any particulars of interest being taken in the case of rare specimens.

It was very necessary that all specimens donated to a Museum should be acknowledged as soon as possible. This should be done even in cases where identification meant delay, exact information in regard to which might be promised and supplied later on.

II. Dr. Annandale referred to the importance not only of organizing the local collection of specimens of all kinds but also of correlating the results obtained. As regards zoology his remarks on the exchange of duplicates applied to the present debate also. No zoological survey of India was officially recognized in the sense that a geological, a botanical and an ethnographical survey were recognized. Nevertheless, the Indian Museum was doing a good deal, considering its limited resources, towards collecting material for such a survey and would welcome the assistance of provincial agencies. In the recent past, he was afraid, that the Museum, notwithstanding the energy and scientific knowledge of its former officers, had been unable to do much for the study of the land fauna of India. Thirty years ago there was a band of amateur zoologists in the country who made large collections and presented them to the Museum, but nowadays no one had much time for anything but his official and professional work, while sportsmen were inclined, naturally enough, to send their trophies to the British instead of the Indian Museum, the latter having given them little assistance. The Indian Museum had had until the last few months, no collector, and the officers of the Natural History Section had been mainly occupied with the study of deep-sea animals dredged by the Survey Ship "Investigator." Government had recently sanctioned the employment of a collector, however, and it was to be hoped that an increase in the trained staff of the Museum would be granted which would allow of more frequent work in the field. Collections made by a scientific man, even incidentally to his more strictly scientific researches, were generally more satisfactory than those made by a man without scientific training. An exact record of locality, date, altitude and even of meteorological conditions was of great importance as regards zoological specimens and the two of these data first mentioned should never be omitted. It was important also to supply collectors with suitable labels, which would differ considerably with the class of specimens to be collected. Labels suitable for record in the field were not in all cases identical with those best adapted for permanent record; but this was a subject which will be dealt with better in another debate.

III. The delegates from Bombay and Madras expressed an opinion that more help might be given by the Indian Museum in the training of taxidermists, collectors and assistants for provincial museums. Reference was also made to the beauty and life-like character of specimens set up in some of the American museums.

Dr. Annandale pointed out that a modern taxidermist of the first class must be something of an artist, as well as having a knowledge of the anatomy and of the habits and natural attitudes of animals. The salary of the head taxidermist in the Indian Museum was Rs. 85—3—100. To teach taxidermy of the kind referred to would need an exponent of the art from England or America and the Indian Museum could not afford to employ such a man.

IV. Mr. Burn (Bombay) suggested that possibly Government might grant scholarships to Indians willing to learn the art in England or America; but it was pointed out by Dr. Annandale that there was no such thing in England at any rate, as a school of taxidermy. He believed that most of the work in the British Museum was done by a private firm, who would probably demand a heavy premium from an apprentice. Mr. Burn said

that he did not wish to press his suggestion in view of the information supplied by *Dr. Annandale*. In any case he was of the opinion that a first class taxidermist should be employed in the Indian Museum both to work on behalf of that Museum and to give instructions to men from the Provincial Museums.

V. *Mr. Brown* (Punjab) was of the opinion that in this connection the matter of loan collections might be brought forward. With regard to the art and industrial art objects it was believed that valuable collections of pictures and artware were found in the houses of native princes, Chiefs and wealthy gentlemen which they would readily loan for longer or shorter periods to the Government Museums. In the Punjab it was proposed to issue a circular to ruling Chiefs and others asking them to kindly consider this scheme and to communicate with the Curator of the Lahore Museum if they have any unique art object suitable for display in the Art Department.

Dr. Annandale was of opinion that it was dangerous in India for a Museum to accept collections on loan. Such collections would be accepted not on their merits but on those of the persons who offered them. It would be difficult to get rid of them later and they would become a white elephant. As regards collections presented to Museums it was becoming a recognized principle that they should not be kept separate as a whole.

In the discussion that ensued with regard to a proposed limit to the length of time articles should be loaned to Museums it was pointed out that in the case of the South Kensington Museum and British Museum collections remained for years in the buildings and no objection to this had ever been brought forward. In the case of several valuable loan collections of pictures and pottery in the South Kensington Museum, to all intents and purposes these were the property of the museum authorities, but were nominated "loan collections" in order that the owner might claim them and have them returned if at any time he so desired.

VI. *Sardar Sahib Bhai Ram Singh* (Punjab) was of the opinion that in this connection it would do much good to the Indian arts and industries if efforts were made to ask the owners of unique and valuable artistic collections to lend their objects to the Museum of their province for display in the loan galleries where they would be appreciated by a larger community than a limited number of friends and acquaintances of the owners. Such collections would no doubt be liable to be returned to the owners at any time at their request.

In connection with this debate the following resolutions were passed unanimously:—

1. That taxidermists for the provincial museums should be trained in the Indian Museum, and that an expert taxidermist should be employed from Europe or America and attached to the staff of the Indian Museum, in order that he might both do the work of that institution and supervise the training of the provincial men.
2. That in order to assist the Indian Museum in its survey of the fauna of India, local museums shall give what assistance they can, and that the Superintendent of the Natural History Section shall be asked to draw up and circulate a statement of the special requirements of the Museum.
3. That in order to interest recognized authorities on Natural History, Archaeology and other subjects in the different provinces they shall be given a definite position on the staff of the Museums by their appointment as Honorary Officers.

Third subject—moved by *DR. ANNANDALE*,
"The publication of results."

I. *Dr. Annandale* in introducing this topic dwelt on the importance of concentration as regards the scientific publications on Indian subjects. Speaking generally, the greatest difficulty experienced by scientific workers

in India was the lack of scientific literature. This difficulty would be greatly reduced if it were possible to devote a single journal to each branch of science and to publish everything bearing on the subject in that journal. Of course it was impossible to prevent the publication of stray scientific papers in European and other journals and it would do far more harm than good to attempt to interfere with the scientific publications of private societies. It would, however, be a great step if it were possible to claim that all geological papers published officially in India were issued in the periodicals issued by the Geological Survey, all zoological ones in those published by the Indian Museum, and so on. Most of the scientific departments under the Government of India now issued their own publications, and others were following suit. There seemed also to be a tendency in these publications towards uniformity as regards arrangement and style, and this should also prove beneficial. It was impossible nowadays, however, for a scientific man to be a universal scientist and each branch of science was distinct from all others to a degree not generally realized. It was therefore better to keep the separate branches separate as regards publications, in order on the one hand to ensure that the periodical or periodicals dealing with them were under the immediate control in each case of those who were acquainted with the particular branch of science concerned, and on the other hand to prevent any one periodical becoming unwieldy.

II. *Mr. Holland* agreed for the support of journals devoted to groups of closely related subjects, and pointed out the difficulty of subdividing too freely in this country, where there is a limited number of original workers. Generally, the balance of advantage is in favour of extending the range of questions covered by a journal rather than splitting it into "series," which give so much trouble to the librarian and to the student, whose mechanical work of quoting previous literature is now becoming dangerously burdened by the intricate systems of publishing in "series" and "parts." If each volume of a journal be fully indexed, and if the papers be made sufficiently short to allow their titles to be expressive of their contents, there was very little disadvantage in having, for instance, Palaeontological papers alongside papers on Mineralogy and Petrology in the same journal in India. Although the workers in India were sufficiently numerous to support separate journals for Geology, Zoology, Botany, and some other branches of science, we would possibly not be able to support local journals for each. The question as to whether it would be best to support a local journal covering all branches of Natural History, or a central journal devoted to a well recognized, distinct branch, must give rise to differences of opinion; but for the publication of the results of original value it was obviously best to support the central special journal rather than the local one covering many objects. However, one could not lay down laws that would destroy the individuality of established publications, or interfere with the natural development of new journals that were of value even if they were the outlet of a local and temporary wave of scientific enthusiasm.

With regard to the *form* and *size* of a publication, uniformity could be advocated with less danger of destroying individuality. The serious student, who had to use and quote scientific literature, should be considered before the varying tastes of the printer and publisher. In most subjects it is generally most practicable to have two "series"—one containing the short papers and notes of interest that may be developed during a long investigation, and the other including monographs and memoirs of a size large enough to swamp the average "part" of the smaller journal, and comprehensive enough to give a general survey of the subject treated. By the Geological Survey the term "Records" was applied to the former journal, while the larger papers were published in a separate series of "Memoirs." For the student who has to quote literature, it was important in all publications to show at the top of each pair of pages—

- (a) the title or recognized abbreviation of the journal,
- (b) the number of the volume and year of publication,
- (c) the author's name and short title of the paper.

Mistakes in quoting the volume or year of the publication were liable to occur if the student has to rely on the title-page of the volume, as errors in binding were so common. In any case the verification of these details incurred a loss of time, especially when two volumes were bound together, as was the custom for small publications in some libraries in India.

It was desirable also that a very full index should be issued with each volume, and possibly an amalgamated index with each ten volumes. With a full index the drawbacks of issuing papers on various subjects in the same journal would be greatly diminished.

With regard to the size of the two classes of publications, it was generally found best to issue papers of the "Records" type as octavo journals and "Memoirs" as quarto publications. An attempt had been made some years ago to standardise the octavo scientific journals by keeping to the size adopted for the *Reports of the British Association*, the *Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society* and the *Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers*. For many years the *Proceedings of the Royal Society* were issued in this size; but it had been found desirable in the last named instance to adopt the super royal octavo size, and this size had been maintained from the beginning for the *Records of the Geological Survey of India*. The quarto size was adopted for most series of memoirs because of the facilities they offered for the large unfolded plates that were necessary especially in Natural History, as it was obviously desirable when practicable to figure type-specimens natural size. The *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society* had been copied in size and style by many societies, and generally they offered the best all-round conveniences for publications of the memoir and monograph type. It is to be regretted that this size was not adopted for the *Memoirs of the Geological Survey of India*, instead of the super royal octavo for ordinary and the large quarto for Palæontological memoirs. It was proposed when Vol. XL of the *Memoirs* was reached to adopt the size and style of the *Philosophical Transactions* for both kinds of memoirs in one amalgamated series.

Recently the Trustees of the Indian Museum had adopted the term *Records of the Indian Museum* for their short papers on Natural History, and for the Forest Department Government have sanctioned the inauguration of a similar publication. In both these cases quarto *Memoirs* are published to supplement the *Records*.

It was an advantage to most serious readers to have a list of the papers previously published in the series attached to each "part" of the *Records* and *Memoirs*. The "part" is thus necessarily issued in paper covers and, as the list could be kept in type and brought up to date with each new "part" published the system involved very little cost or labour, while it might be of inestimable value to many readers. The list of papers published by the Geological Survey occupied 18 pages of the paper-covers issued with each part of the *Records* and *Memoirs*.

The list was now becoming dangerously bulky but it seemed unwise to abolish it in view of the great value it has been to students.

III. With regard to the Art Department of Museums it was pointed out by Mr. Brown (Punjab) that up to the present no steps had been taken to produce any publication devoted to this subject which in any way corresponded with the journals or records relating to Geology, Zoology, etc. Efforts should be made to bring publications on this subject into line with the other branches of Museum work. It was remarked that there was a certain amount of literature published from time to time on Art and Industry, notably the Technical Art Series, the Journal of Indian Art, and the Industrial Monographs, but it was felt that there were drawbacks to the utility of these books which it might be found desirable to remove.

These were, (a) the want of completeness in dealing with each subject; (b) a considerable degree of overlapping, due to the independent manner of their issue, and (c) the fact that no single art is dealt with in a comprehensive manner.

In the discussion that followed these remarks it was suggested that in place of these books a periodical should be produced which would deal with each art subject exhaustively in turn and so ultimately build up a series of records which would together form a complete survey of the Arts and Industries of India, and it was proposed that a sub-committee be formed to consider this subject and to formulate a scheme which would enable the above suggestion to be put into effect.

IV. *Sardar Sahib Bhai Ram Singh* was of the opinion that journals might be published half yearly on various topics of Art and supplied regularly to all the Museums. One of the Curators of the Museums might be elected as an editor to whom articles might be contributed by other curators for insertion in the journals. In his opinion the Indian Museum would quite suit the purpose.

The question of the Art publications was submitted to a sub-committee consisting of the following delegates:—

I. H. Burkill, Esqr.
E. Thurston, Esqr.
Percy Brown, Esqr.
C. L. Burns, Esqr.
Dr. A. Mitra.

The Sub-Committee reported as follows and their report was adopted by the Conference unanimously:—

The Sub-Committee consider it desirable that the publications on Art—Pure and Industrial—made in India should be unified. The publication should take the form of a serial edited and conducted in a way similar to the *Memoirs* of the Geological Survey, Zoological, Botanical and Archaeological departments.

The Provincial monographs on Industrial Arts and the Technical Art series published by the Survey of India should be absorbed. From the serial extra plates might be easily struck off for the use of Schools of Arts and for other purposes.

The Committee believe that the present system, by which the Provincial Governments are asked to write monographs on specified subjects, cannot much longer continue, because the subjects common to most of the provinces have now been exhausted, and further the Committee believe that the Technical Art series find a far more extensive sale among European visitors to India than among the class for whom it was intended. The class to which these visitors belong would be more easily reached by a serial than they are by the present publication, while the artisans should be reached by pattern books through the Schools of Art. The serial would form the basis from which the designs of the pattern books should be taken.

The following resolutions were passed as regards the publications of scientific results, in each case unanimously:—

1. That the "Records" and "Memoirs" of the Geological Survey shall be the recognized official medium for the publication of scientific geological work in India, the "Records" and "Memoirs" of the Indian Museum for that of zoology, and the publications of the Botanical Survey for that of botanical work, the "Records" in each case being devoted to shorter papers and notes, and the "Memoirs" to more detailed monographs.
2. That in every case the size of the "Records" shall be super royal octavo (11½" x 7").
3. That in the "Records" each paper shall commence on a separate page.

Fourth subject—moved by MR. I. H. BURKILL,
"Disposal of type specimens and registration of new specimens."

I. Mr. Burkill opened the discussion by explaining the meaning among scientists of the word "type specimen" as a specimen used for an original

scientific description, and by means of which alone the accuracy of that description must in future be tested. He pointed out the importance of preserving these specimens as references for (as nearly as possible) all time. Science needed that they should be both carefully preserved and accessibly preserved. Nothing had yet been done among scientists by common consent towards gathering types together into central institutions, that they may be preserved well in both ways; but it was very reasonable to enquire what could be done; and possibly in India biologists were in a far better position to achieve something than they were in many countries. Mr. Burkill in illustration proceeded to state that all types of plants which fell into his hands were not preserved by him in his own section of the Indian Museum but were made over to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Calcutta, which he regarded as the appropriate depository for them—it being the chief centre of work on descriptive Indian botany. The convenience of the greater number of workers, and therefore the greater advancement of science, was secured by transferring them.

Similar principles might guide one in the disposal of all type specimens.

Regarding the registration of type specimens, the general rules of registration of the institute where they lie should apply.

Regarding registration in general, though there were Museums where the quantity of specimens received render registration by numbers impossible, *e.g.*, herbaria, there were more Museums where registration by number is desirable. If registration by number was impossible, something about the label should exist by which a particular specimen could be recognised, *e.g.*, if it becomes a type, the word "type" should be written on the label as is done at Kew. He suggested that, for the purpose of the Conference perhaps, these exceptional cases might be neglected. Registration of specimens should never be by any complicated method: one serial running number should alone be used for the objects to be registered, and the specimens and its number should never be separated: there should not be sub-numbers. The first act on the receipt of a specimen was its registration. In the Industrial Section of the Indian Museum, three registers were kept: one, now with running numbers from 1 to 10,469, recorded all the receipts for the Ethnological Gallery, a second with running numbers from 1 to 12,862 recorded all the receipts for the Art Gallery, and the third with running numbers from 1 to 28,170 recorded all the receipts for the Economic Gallery whether shown in it or reserved with the possibility of being shown in it. No specimen was unpacked from the package in which it came without at once receiving a label bearing its number or having the number painted on it; and the label or number always remained on the specimen, the label being often wired to the object if Artware or something Ethnological, or attached in suitable ways if Economic.

Correspondence about each specimen bore the number of the specimen also, and could be sought out without any doubt.

II. Mr. Holland dwelt on the importance of "types," and argued that, in order to prevent the possibility of different Curators exercising their own views as to the importance of such specimens, types should be stored in a Museum governed, if possible, by a representative body of Trustees, or at any rate, regulated by rules that could not be broken to suit the idiosyncrasy of each Curator who might be "acting" in charge. In India, practically all the types that had been established in Natural History subjects were stored in Calcutta—botanical specimens at Sibpur, zoological and geological specimens in the Calcutta Museum. An effort should be made, when the staff permitted it, to publish a list of the types available, in order that outside naturalists might know where they can be consulted. The collections of fossil-types preserved in the Geological Survey office were separately numbered and registered, being kept apart from the rest of the Museum specimens. The register showed the names of the species, locality, geological formation, author of the species and references to the description and published figures.

Mr. Holland also recommended very strongly that all specimens received at any Museum should be registered immediately on receipt, and special registers should be kept for the purpose. Such registers should only re-

cognise a classification that could be carried out accurately by a clerk without a special knowledge of any branch of science; for instance, anyone would ordinarily be able to divide the materials received into plants, animals, rocks and minerals, fossils, archaeological specimens, coins, pictures and objects of industrial art. It would be unwise to arrange for any more precise classification in the preliminary register.

It was very common in most of the Museums in the world to come across quantities of material about which the history was doubtful, and most of such cases were due to the fact that some time during the history of the Museum the specimens and their labels had become confused. If immediately on the receipt of a specimen it were given a registered number, and that number were marked on it indelibly (either painted on or attached in the form of a metal label), the full details obtained up to the time and entered into the register might at any later date become of priceless value to the original worker. Nothing was so annoying to the worker as to have a doubt about the origin and history of the specimen which proved to be of scientific interest. It was better to be on the safe side and to record full details regarding specimens that might turn out to be unimportant than to run the risk of finding many years later that a specimen of scientific value could not be turned to account because of some flaw or gap in its history.

The registration of new specimens on receipt should not be undertaken by a scientific officer. He was far too inclined to subdivide the materials and classify them, and he was also inclined to be guided by his ideas as to what might be important and what might be useless. It was far better that the preliminary registration should be done by a simple clerk, in order that every known detail might be recorded. For this reason the speaker advocated the simple classification into the large groups referred to above, as this was possible for anyone with the most superficial education.

III. Dr. Annandale stated that although he was naturally in favour of making the collections in the Indian Museum as complete as possible in respect to the fauna of India, he was of the opinion that it was impossible, in the climate of Calcutta, to prevent degeneration in specimens of certain groups of insects, especially butterflies and moths, and that it was more important that a "type" should be kept safe and be accessible for study than that it should be kept in Calcutta. He would therefore recommend that in the case of such specimens as it was impossible to preserve safely in Calcutta the type should be sent to the British Museum in London. He believed, however, that it would ultimately benefit everyone concerned if Indian types were as a preliminary sent to the central museum of the Indian Empire, in which the great majority of them could be preserved safely and permanently.

IV. Sardar Sahib Bhai Ram Singh (Punjab) was of the opinion that type specimens should be disposed of according to the instructions as regards coins issued by the Government of India recently, and that their registration in the catalogues distributed for the information of workers would be very useful and important. The registration of new specimens was decidedly most essential. Registers maintained for this purpose should be uniform in all the Museums of India.

In connection with this debate the following resolutions were passed unanimously:—

1. That all zoological "types" in India shall be deposited in the Indian Museum, but that the Superintendent of the Natural History Section shall be empowered, with the consent of the Trustees, to transfer to the British Museum (Natural History) such entomological "types" as may be, in his opinion, in danger of destruction owing to the climate.
2. That all Palaeontological "types" shall be placed in charge of the Director of the Geological Survey, and all Botanical "types" in that of the Director of the Botanical Survey.
3. That in each case either a duplicate, a drawing or a photograph of the type shall be sent to the institution from which the original specimen was obtained, and that the "type" itself may be lent for scientific examination to this or other institutions if it can be sent with safety.

4. That it would be useful that lists of types should be published periodically.
5. That all specimens received at any Museum shall be entered in a general register as expeditiously as possible and that the register shall be divided into volumes representing the main sections of the collection in such a way that the ordinary clerk can appreciate the differences between these sections at sight and with no possibility of confusion. The following eight headings were approved as being suitable for the collections of a provincial museum:—

1. Archæology and Epigraphy.
2. Coins and Medals.
3. Art and Ethnology.
4. Economic Products.
5. Geology.
6. Plants.
7. Animals.
8. Books, Maps and Manuscripts.

Fifth subject—moved by MR. T. H. HOLLAND,

"Classification of public exhibits and reference collections."

I. Mr. Holland explained in opening the discussion on this question that it was placed on the list of agenda of the Conference in consequence of the bearing it had on the reorganization of the Indian Museum now being considered by Government. In the institution known to the public as the Indian Museum, there were, in fact, two independent organizations:—

- (i) the geological collections, which were part of the property of the Geological Survey and administered by the Director, who was responsible directly to the Government of India;
- (ii) the exhibits relating to industrial art, archæology, economic products, zoology and ethnography, which were administered by a body of 21 Trustees constituted into a Board by a special Act in Council, which gave the Trustees powers somewhat similar to those of a Local Government.

The question had recently been raised as to whether the various subjects under the administration of the Trustees could not be conveniently divided into natural units, such as (a) zoology and ethnography, (b) art, (c) archæology and (d) economic products, and whether, as regards purely technical and scientific questions internally, the Superintendents of these sections should not be given the power now possessed by the head of the geological section. At present the part of the Museum under the administration of the Trustees was divided into two sections, the Superintendent of the Natural History Section having charge of the archæological exhibits as well as the zoological collections, while the Superintendent of the Industrial Section has charge of ethnography, industrial art and economic products. It was obvious that the grouping together of subjects so utterly unrelated as archæology and zoology could not tend to efficiency, and it was obvious that, if financially possible, such unrelated collections should be managed by separate officers. Most people would concur on this last point, viz., that separate specialists should be in executive charge of distinct subjects, whenever a Museum is large enough to command the full services of specialists for each natural subdivision. It was, of course, necessary in small Museums, for financial reasons alone, to group together several subjects under one officer; and as far as India is concerned, most of the Provincial Museums could not afford to pay for more than one superior officer for the whole Museum; but the Calcutta Museum was now too large and too important to be treated in this way. The Provincial Museums had as their main object the education of the public, and an attractive display of natural objects must be their chief aim. In the Indian Museum, however, there had now been accumulated an enormous mass of material suitable for reference purposes, and the collections had become so large that no original worker in palæontology or zoology could afford to neglect their value. Thus the leading function of the Indian Museum should be its use as an instrument for serious scientific research. Its popular side should not be neglected, but, in administration, we should

regard, first of all, the scientific efficiency of its officers rather than their ability to make popular displays. This being admitted, many would argue that it would be unwise to place the Museum under a single Director who would have control of the zoologists, the archæologists and the geological officers. If such a Director had no special or scientific qualifications, he would not be fit to criticise the scientific work of any one section. If, on the other hand, he were a zoologist, no matter how distinguished, he would not be fit to control the research work in the archæological section; or, if he were a geologist, he would have no right to interfere with the purely scientific problems of the zoological section.

Admitting, therefore, that scientific work and research form the chief object of the Indian Museum, it seemed advisable to give each specialist a free hand so far as his own particular collections were concerned; and with this aim in view, proposals had now been made before the Government for dividing the Indian Museum into the following sections:—

- (a) Art.
- (b) Archæology.
- (c) Geology.
- (d) Zoology and Anthropology.
- (e) Economic Products.

All these sections except zoology and ethnography could be linked to existing Departments of Government, and it was proposed that such departments already concerned with the scientific aspects of the questions should be responsible for the internal administration of the corresponding sections of the Museum. Zoology and Anthropology would be under a separate Superintendent responsible directly to the Board of Trustees, whose other functions regarding the Museum would be purely advisory. The Trustees would not attempt to interfere with purely scientific matters in any section, but they would be the guardians of the public: it would be their duty to see that the public exhibits were suitably displayed, that the rules for the admission of visitors and their control were properly carried out, and that the buildings and compound were kept in decent order.

This new organization would be applied to the various collections grouped together in one set of buildings such as we have for the Calcutta Museum, or it could be applied to separate Museums, if, in future, it be found impossible to accommodate in the space now available the full grown collections.

Generally it was convenient to have the Museums either in one building or in a series of buildings near one another; but personally the speaker did not consider it important that all subjects should be exhibited in the same Museum. The visitor to a Museum, with serious intentions to study, could not take an intelligent interest in more than one or two questions: if he was a zoologist, it was not likely that it would be greatly to his advantage to find a number of archæological exhibits in the same building; conversely, if he was an archæologist, he would not care whether the minerals and fossils were in the same part of Calcutta or were exhibited elsewhere. However, there was a large number of uneducated public who wanted to see as much as they could of things curious, and although, possibly, the satisfaction of their feelings of curiosity could not be regarded as education, they had a right to be considered, and possibly a right to expect as many subjects as possible concentrated in a convenient set of accessible buildings. The sub-division into natural units, and the independence of the units, as far as internal scientific questions were concerned, were points in Museum organization that were seldom exemplified in the larger Museums of Europe; but it should be remembered that most of the large Museums in the world had grown gradually to their present dimensions by the accretion of legacies and bequests that were generally tied up with special conditions. The vested interests in these old institutions were so strong that it was now impossible to break loose from the administration under which they had gradually grown, in order to adopt a more scientific and more natural subdivision of functions. In Calcutta, to a certain extent, the Museum was also tied up by the linking

together of different institutions, but most of these were at the disposal of Government and it was consequently comparatively easy by a modification of the Act in Council to effect a reform for the purposes of adopting a more scientific classification in administration.

Luckily those concerned were not compelled to take this new step on purely theoretical considerations; the geological section had been independent of the rest of the Museum from the beginning; the Trustees had not even advisory powers with regard to it; yet no visitor would notice, on passing from the invertebrate gallery to the mineralogical gallery, or from the archaeological wing across the hall into the Siwalik gallery, that he was entering a totally different institution. As regards the display of material for the public, as regards the hours of attendance, as regards the uniform of the attendants, the two institutions had adopted similar regulations, and so far as the public were concerned, the two were one; yet the Trustees had no right to enter the geological galleries except as members of the public. They had no control over the classification of rocks, minerals and fossils, and had no say in the purely scientific problems involved; but no one can say that the geological section had been less successful either from the scientific or the public point of view than any other section of the Museum. What had been found to be practicable and successful in connection with geology should be possible also if zoology were divorced from archaeology or if art were separated from botanical products of economic value. They were therefore not adopting a radical change without a successful experiment to guide them.

Now that the system of grouping and administration of the chief sections of the compound museums had been considered, the next point to consider was the internal classification that might be adopted in a group. In a small museum, with a limited number of specimens, it was found possible to adopt one classification only. In a large Museum with numbers of duplicates available, two or more classifications might be possible to express the different aspects for the same subject; for example, it might be convenient in a Provincial Museum to exhibit geological specimens by districts only instead of according to recognized scientific classification of geological materials. With duplicates available it would be possible to display two series—one according to the subject classification and another according to the geographical classification. The same question arose with regard to ethnography. We could group together all the different kinds of weapons to form one collection, the different kinds of musical instruments to form another, the various sorts of dresses and personal ornaments to form the third, thus permitting of a comparison of the dresses of the different tribes, of the musical instruments, or of the weapons they use. In so far as such a classification would express the evolution of the articles represented, it would be one of scientific value. On the other hand, the ordinary visitor of the Museum and the new comer to the country would be generally more interested in a particular tribe or in a limited number of tribes. He would thus prefer to see representative models of the tribes surrounded by the materials they make use of—their dresses, their weapons, their fishing nets, musical instruments, and, in fact, all the materials that show the nature of their life. This classification was utterly different to the first, but it might be convenient, if sufficient materials were available, to have both forms of classification in the same Museum.

It was not possible to lay down a law suitable for all types of Museums. The classification to be adopted must depend entirely upon the nature of the material available. In the case of the Geological Museum in Calcutta, where abundance of material was available, two classifications were adopted for each subdivision of Geology; for instance, the minerals were arranged in one series of cases according to a recognized scientific grouping, while in another set of cases they were displayed in accordance with their economic uses. In the first series would be found the oxides of iron associated with the oxides of alumina, chrome and manganese, and the carbonate of iron would be associated with the carbonates of lime, baryta and magnesia, while the sulphides of iron would be associated with those of copper, lead, zinc,

silver, etc. In the economic series, on the other hand, would be found together the oxides of iron associated with the carbonates, forming a series of minerals suitable as sources for the manufacture of the metal. So, also, would be found together the carbonate, sulphide and oxide of copper as materials which could be developed for the economic production of copper. At the same time, in the economic series, the minerals might occur in more than one place; for instance, while some forms of hematite, *i.e.*, oxide of iron, were suitable as pigments, they would be found associated with substances like barytes, zinc-white, white lead, graphite and other substances also used as pigments, while duplicate specimens would be found with the ores of iron suitable for smelting the metal. In the case of fossils, one series was arranged zoologically; the cephalopods of all ages would be found in one group of cases separated from the gastropods. In another series, the fossils were arranged in accordance with their geological age, and we would thus find the cephalopods and gastropods of the same geological period grouped together. Rock specimens were similarly arranged according to their stratigraphical classification, and according to their lithological nature, into two distinct series. The ideal Museum would give expression in its collections to every aspect of the subject concerned; but the ideal could not be approached when financial limitations only permitted of the formation of an imperfect collection. Thus, we might be limited, as in most Provincial Museums, to the display only of one aspect of a subject, while in the Calcutta Museum we were generally limited to two, and it could not be regarded as unsatisfactory if the two principal aspects of any one subject were suitably and fully displayed in the Museum.

II. *Mr. Brown* (Punjab) said that collections should be classified into a number of broad divisions so that on the arrival of any particular article in a Museum it would be possible for a subordinate to refer it correctly to the broadly defined class to which it belonged; its ultimate exact location being afterwards decided upon by the expert officer in charge of that particular class.

In the Lahore Museum the various departments were at present in the process of classification, the classes now completed being—

1. Industrial Arts.
2. Fine Arts.
3. Archaeology and Antiquities.
4. Coins.

The other departments of the Museum were under arrangement and it was proposed to classify these according to the methods adopted by the Indian Museum.

With regard to the four classes enumerated above these had been subdivided as below:—

1. Industrial Arts.
 - (a) Hardware manufactures.
 - (b) Textiles.
2. Fine Arts.
 - (a) Pictures, Photographs and Engravings.
 - (b) Sculpture and Statuary.
3. Archaeology and Antiquities.
 - (a) Sculpture (Græco-Buddhist, Brahmanical, Jain, Muhammadan, etc.).
 - (b) Inscriptions.
 - (c) Prehistoric Implements.
 - (d) Miscellaneous including antique jewellery, seals, etc.
4. Coins.
 - (a) Ancient Coins (Græco-Bactrian, etc.).
 - (b) Muhammadan.
 - (c) Miscellaneous.

III. *Mr. Ibrahim Rahimtoola* (Bombay) dwelt on the fact that few or no local Museums in India would be able to afford the expenses of putting different sections of their collections under different experts. He agreed, however, that the proposals made as regards the Indian Museum would prove beneficial in the case of a central institution with relatively large funds at its disposal.

IV. *Sardar Sahib Bhai Ram Singh* said that collections must be divided into various classes. There should be a certain number of main heads, which should be classified into sub-heads. Every effort should be made to exhibit the collections of a museum in their proper sub-heads. This would facilitate the control as well as the location of exhibits.

The following resolution arising from the discussion was put to the meeting and passed unanimously:—

That the Conference expressed their approval of the scheme for splitting the Indian Museum into sections as proposed by the Trustees and were of the opinion that the principles involved were the best so far as the central museum for India was concerned.

Sixth subject—moved by *MR. I. H. BURKILL*,

"Preservation of specimens and labels specially suitable to the climate."

I. In introducing the sixth subject, *Mr. Burkill* laid on the table examples of the labels used in his section of the Indian Museum. The important labels, *viz.*, those referred to under the fourth topic, were not those intended for the use of the public but were kept at the back of the specimens: those for the public were as small as was compatible with legibility and were renewed at frequent intervals. For the purpose of renewal they were printed by the fifty at a time. Two examples are given here:—

<i>Caryota urens</i>, THE SAGO PALM Vern.—<i>Mari</i> (HIND.); <i>Birlī-mhār</i>, <i>birlī mār</i> (BOM.); <i>Conda-panna</i>, <i>erimpanna</i> (TAM.). Dictionary, C. 711. Reg. No. _____ Museum Cabinet No. 205.	Section No. MASULIPATAM.
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The work of renewal of the labels was done by a duftry under the supervision of a clerk and the perpetual original number was always on the object or on a label behind the object as a reference for the avoidance of mistakes.

For the preservation of temporary labels, therefore, no particular care was taken. All—both perpetual and temporary or show labels—went discoloured in the strong Indian light in a very short time; but the show labels were frequently renewed.

For the preservation of the specimens in the Industrial Section of the Indian Museum great care was taken. Spirit, naphthaline, creosote, corrosive sublimate, carbolic acid and kerosine were all used. Spirit was used in the usual way for the preservation by immersion of fruits, etc. Naphthaline was put into every show case—a dozen pieces—the size of a marble, being for the purpose tied up in a bit of muslin; and several such bundles being put into each case: it was put also into every index tin, where unfortunately it at times caused a little trouble by subliming on to the glass front of the tin. Creosote was washed annually over the backs of all large pieces of timber where they were in contact with walls and were allowed to soak in; it was not used for other purposes. Corrosive sublimate was used for all dried seeds, leaves, bamboos and softer parts of vegetable origin. It was made up in a concentrated solution in spirit and poured over the material to be poisoned, or washed over it with a brush, and allowed to dry so that they get a thin coating of it. Next to naphthaline it is the most used preservative.

Carbolic acid was put into all glue used. Kerosine was used for the impregnation of card board boxes and books that book-worms had begun to attack.

There were many enemies to guard against:—mice which were best kept down by trapping, fish insects which at present did little harm to other things than paper, the bamboo shot borer which get into articles both in the Economic and the Ethnologic courts, the longicorn beetles which attacked timbers, white ants, grain-weevils, book-weevils, grain-moths, etc. *Mr. Burkill* explained that, with the assistance of these poisons and preservatives, he relied firstly however upon cleanliness, frequent dusting and as far as possible the avoidance of dark corners.

II *Dr. Annandale* gave particulars as regards the preservation of
ERRATUM.

Page 21, 10th line from top. For "cottonwool saturated" read
"zoological specimens."

As regards insects he would recommend the use of silver pins and boxes or cases should be provided with a receptacle for a sponge or piece of cottonwool saturated with carbolic or creosote. Camphor might also be used, but he was doubtful as to the practical utility of naphthaline in insect boxes. He was against the use of cards in pinning delicate insects, but would recommend small slabs of cork or pith, which had the advantage over cork of being very easily obtained in India. The slabs should be large enough to protect the legs, wings and antennæ of the insects pinned on them and should be oblong, not round. The use of card disks, although it was recommended by the British Museum, was a mistake when there was any chance of the specimens having to travel. The pin, too, except in very delicate insects, should be inserted from above, not from below. Very minute specimens were best pinned sideways from below. Insects should also be protected, so far as possible, from light; but he was doubtful whether it was possible in India to prevent butterflies and moths from fading, even if every precaution was taken.

As regards mammals and birds, they should always be preserved in the first instance as skins, unless they were wanted for purposes of anatomical research. The instructions given in the British Museum, hand-books might be followed as regards the preparation of skins. As regards the preservation of stuffed animals in the public galleries of an Indian Museum, he would recommend the course followed in Calcutta. The cases at present in use were unsuitable for any climate. Still, one had to make the best of them, and museum cases were extremely expensive if made properly. Even with the bad cases, however, which were all the Indian Museum could afford, it was possible to keep the stuffed animals in a fairly good state of preservation for a considerable number of years. Sulphur was burnt in the cases periodically and the mammals were rubbed over with clove oil. Saucers of unslaked lime, to absorb moisture, were placed in them, and of naphthaline. The latter substance probably kept out the larger and more delicate insects such as cockroaches and "fish insects" (Thysanura), but it was useless against mould or other microscopic pests and probably also against noxious beetles.

As regards specimens preserved in liquid, he found strong alcohol the only satisfactory medium as a permanent preservative. Softer animals, such as fish, frogs and most marine invertebrates, except crustacea and echinoderms, were benefited by a preliminary hardening in a solution of formaline. This drug, however, sooner or later destroyed any tissue containing salts of lime and had proved unsatisfactory, owing to the evaporation of its essential constituent, as a permanent preservative in the climate of Calcutta, even for the softest organisms. Soft specimens should be put in formaline for one week and then transferred to spirit; but if they were very delicate they might first be transferred to a very weak mixture of alcohol and water, then into a stronger one, and finally into one containing not less than ninety per cent. of alcohol. Sponges should always be preserved in the strongest alcohol available. A great danger in Calcutta was the absorption of water vapour by the alcohol, and it was necessary to be continually renewing and redistilling the alcohol, even when the best stoppered bottles were used. A mixture of country soap, boxes-wax and cocoanut oil was

always placed round the stoppers of bottles in the Indian Museum, but this did not prevent the alcohol from becoming gradually weaker.

As regards labels, the only ones he found really satisfactory for exhibition purposes were painted by hand on wooden boards. It was necessary that the wood should be well seasoned. It was then covered with black enamel and the legend was painted on it by a markman, who was employed for the purpose. The rule now was in the Indian Museum that labels for animals occurring in the Indian Empire were painted in white, and for those that did not occur within its limits in red. As regards field labels, the instructions given in the British Museum hand-book might be followed.

III. Mr. Thurston (Madras) observed that, though naphthaline was largely used as a preservative in the Indian Museum and Madras Museum, nothing was really known as to its efficacy, which was accepted very much on trust. He suggested that a systematic series of experiments should be carried out, with a view to ascertaining how far it is efficacious in preventing the ravages of insects and other museum pests on labels, animals, textile fabrics, etc.

IV. Mr. Brown (Punjab) said that the principal enemies that the Lahore Museum had to contend with were white ants and dust. With regard to the former all wood not under direct observation, such as the backs of cases, etc., was coated freely with coal tar. The dust of the Punjab was, however, a very serious and ever present difficulty and could only be prevented by means of air-tight and dust-proof cases.

V. Sardar Sahib Bhai Ram Singh (Lahore) thought that every precaution should be taken by the curators and their staff to protect the collection from dust, white ants, and other noxious worms and insects. In the Lahore Museum an excellent arrangement was made for this purpose. Air-tight glass fixture cases glazed with glass plates were provided in the sculpture gallery. The backs of these cases were well coated with coal tar and about one inch of room was provided between the wall and the back of the cases. This was always filled in with sawdust mixed with tar, through which kerosine oil was poured whenever there was any danger from white ants. To furnish other Museums with such like cases would most certainly protect the collection to a great extent. Naphthaline should also be kept in cases. Labels might be printed with particulars of the objects and on paper and covered with glass as in the Indian Museum. This system was suitable to all climates. In the Lahore Museum labels were printed on black japanned wooden plates.

VI. Dr. Mitra (Kashmir) called attention to the use of the root of *Saussurea Lappa* ("Kut") as an excellent preservation of woollen fabrics, furs, and feathers. It was largely used in Kashmir and he had found it as good as naphthaline if not better in some respects.

In regard to this subject the following resolution was proposed and passed unanimously:—

1. Dr. Annandale and Mr. Burkill were requested to incorporate their remarks on the subject of the preservation of specimens in a note and to circulate them to the different Museums. They were also requested to conduct systematic experiments on the effect of naphthaline in preserving specimens of different kinds from the attack of insects.

Seventh subject—moved by MR. E. THURSTON,

"Recognized special functions of particular Provincial Museums."

It was agreed on the proposal of the Chairman that for the purpose of discussion the term "provincial museum" should be held to include a Presidency and State Museum.

I. Mr. Thurston (Madras) in opening the discussion said that, in his first annual administration report of the Madras Government Museum, after he took over charge of it in 1885, he made the following remarks: "It is wholly beyond the power or scope of a Presidential Museum to rival the great

national museums in the possession of representative collections from different quarters of the globe, and I have determined to devote my entire attention to the natural history, arts, ethnology, manufactures and raw products of Southern India, accepting only such specimens from other regions as may be sent as donations from time to time, and keeping them entirely apart from the main collections. The necessity of such a course is best illustrated by reference to the geological collection, which, while abounding in a chaos of purchased and exchanged specimens of European fossils, is markedly deficient in specimens from the rich fossiliferous beds of the Cretaceous system of Southern India." He had nothing to add to, or take from this. The policy laid down had been steadily followed, with some measure of success. Sir William Flower, formerly Director of the British Museum (Natural History), once observed that "a museum depends for its success, not on its building, not on its cases, and not on its exhibits, but on its Curator." The provincial museums could not expect to be provided, like the Indian Museum, Calcutta, with a body of specialists in Zoology, Geology, Economic Products, etc., and it was, therefore, essential that their Curators should be men possessed of wide sympathies, and capable of undertaking, to the best of their abilities, the working of various departments, in such a manner that one was not developed at the expense of the others. At Madras, Mr. Thurston had been responsible for the appointment, in recent years, of specialists as Honorary Assistants to the Superintendent in the Natural History and Archaeological sections. He strongly recommended the Curators of other Provincial Museums to adopt the same course, as they would in this way receive assistance from men who would be willing to give much valuable help, if they felt that they had a definite position on the staff.

II. Dr. Kanga (Baroda) stated that a museum should not confine itself to the arts and industries of the particular place but should have a collection of typical specimens of all sorts of arts and industries from all countries, specimens of fine and applied art which could be advantageously imitated by Indian artists and craftsmen.

III. With regard to several important departments of a Provincial Museum, Mr. Brown (Punjab) thought that to display only local examples was a mistake, particularly in the departments of Industrial Art. In the case of any local art, as for example enamelling, he found it extremely useful to exhibit, along with a comprehensive collection of local examples, specimens from other parts of India, and even to go further afield and display types from Europe and Japan. The object of this was obvious; the visitor, aware of this local art and wishing to study it, would see in which way it resembled or was different from types produced from other centres where this particular industry was carried on; in the same way the workman in the art of enamelling might not only see specimens of work of his own province but might learn something from the methods employed by his brothers in the craft in other parts of India and abroad. Referring to the collection of antiquities, attention might be drawn to the policy of the Archaeological Department regarding inscribed stones, etc., displayed in a Museum but evidently originating from some district outside the Provincial area of that Museum. In cases of this kind the Archaeological Department requested that the specimen might be transferred to the museum nearest to its place of origin, and arrangements were always made for this to be carried out. In this connection it might be mentioned that the Municipal Museum at Delhi had been closed, and an historical Museum opened at Delhi Fort by the Archaeological Department, in which had been placed objects of local historical interest taken from the discontinued Municipal collection. Application had also been made to Lahore for an object of local historical interest now displayed in the Lahore Museum to be transferred to the Delhi Fort. Further, at the request of the Archaeological Department, inscribed stones had been sent from the Lahore Museum to Lucknow and also to Muttra, as it was pointed out at the time that these particular specimens had direct reference to those places but no connection with the province in

which they were then displayed. The policy was on general principles, a most commendable one, but the extent to which it should be actually put into effect might be a matter of consideration for the Conference.

This subject had some bearing on the number of Museums that it might be considered advisable to maintain in various parts of the country. Generally speaking, there should be one and not more than one in each Presidency, Province or State. Exceptions to this rule might be desirable in the case of small historical or archaeological museums in special localities as put into effect at Delhi and Muttra by the Archaeological Department. It might also be found useful occasionally to establish small trades or industrial art museums in towns where specially important manufactures were carried on, but it might be mentioned that these as a rule did not effect their purpose and usually deteriorated for want of support. The only way to maintain these small local collections would be to link them up with the Central Museum and have them supervised and inspected by the staff of that institution.

IV. *Mr. Burns* (Bombay) said the discussion raised the question of the functions of all Museums, in regard to which it was very difficult to lay down one law applicable to Museums devoted to all subjects.

He agreed with those members of the Conference who stated that a Science Museum should be a depository for records referring to the branch of science which the Museum is intended to illustrate, and especially for those records found in the country in which the Museum is placed. The Indian Museum broadly carried out that function for the whole of the Peninsula, and in his opinion the Provincial Museums should work upon similar lines, and illustrate the Fauna, Flora, Geology, Archaeology and Ethnology of the particular province or state in which they were situated in more detail than is possible in a Central Museum, however large. There was a function of an Art and Applied Art Museum which did not lend itself to this restriction of field. An Applied Art Museum to be of real value should in his opinion not only be a place of record of the artistic industries of the Province, but should in addition be regarded as a necessary portion of the teaching equipment of the School of Art.

With this in view, it was obviously requisite that side by side, with each set of exhibits of a local Artistic Industry, should be displayed the best specimens of similar work from other parts of India, from Europe and Japan. India is now flooded with a large quantity of the worst work produced in both Hemispheres and illustrated catalogues of an equally low artistic level. Both work and drawings in catalogues are copied by the crafts people of India, who have no traditional designs for many of the articles now in demand. It was therefore of great importance to the future that these craftsmen should have the opportunity of seeing the really fine work now being done in foreign countries, and copies at least of the best work of the past.

He thought it would be quite possible for the Indian Museum with the help of the Government of India to make a series of small but thoroughly representative collections of works, each collection containing originals or copies of the best specimens of some particular artistic craft common to the civilized countries and throughout the world, and produced at different periods. Such collections of comparative examples could be circulated on loan to Provincial Museums or Schools of Art in States or Provinces where the craft illustrated is extensively practised, where they would be of great educative value to the Art workers of the District or Province.

For instance a collection of gold and silver articles for the table or for personal adornment, exhibiting the best work of different parts of India, and in addition reproductions of Greek, Roman, Mediæval, and Modern European and Japanese articles of a similar character, would be of the greatest value in exhibiting the comparative merits of each style, and would give the craftsman a wider knowledge of his craft than is possible at present. Electrotyping and other methods of reproducing original works are now so comparatively cheap, that the formation of such collections could be made without a very great outlay, while the experience gained by the

circulating department of the Victoria and Albert Museum at South Kensington, would supply ample data regarding the organization of a similar department at Calcutta.

It would require a separate head to the department if it was to be successful, and a staff to arrange for packing, etc. With regard to Archaeological collections, he thought the rule should be that the Indian Museum should contain one or two of the finest specimens from every part of India, while Provincial Museums should exhibit in greater detail those records of the races who formerly inhabited each Province. When an isolated Archaeological specimen was found which supplied a missing link in the collection at the Indian Museum, he thought its place was in the Central Institution. When several were found, the best specimens should likewise find a home there, while the remainder should go to the Provincial Museum. These views might not be regarded with favour by some Curators, but he thought that they were in accordance with the sound principle which should guide the relations between the Indian Museum and those of the Provinces.

V. *Sardar Sahib Bhai Ram Singh* (Punjab) said that it would be more useful if works of other provinces were also displayed along with that of a particular provincial museum. This would help the workmen as well as the visitors to find out the difference between the work of the particular province and that of others. It was strongly recommended that the collections of antiquities might be displayed in the museum nearest to their place of origin. This arrangement of the Archaeological Department deserved appreciation.

After considerable informal discussion, the following resolutions were proposed to the meeting and passed, the first two by a majority, the third unanimously:—

1. That the provincial museums of India should in the main confine their scope to the presidency, province or state in which they are situated.
2. That in the opinion of the Conference, it is desirable that in every province or state there should be but one Government or State public museum.
3. That the officers of every provincial museum should have direct access to a good reference library, and that this library should whenever possible be connected with the museum.

Eighth subject—moved by *MR. E. THURSTON*,

"The preparation of guides for the public."

I. In opening this discussion *Mr. Thurston* (Madras) said that it was a well-known saying that the labels in a museum gallery should be in great measure a guide. Of this there was an excellent example in the reptilian section of the Indian Museum, which the members of the Conference had visited. There could be no possible doubt as to the advisability of issuing guide-books, written in popular and attractive style, and well illustrated. The preparation of such guide-books should be entrusted only to those possessed of special knowledge of the subjects dealt with. Personally, he had some years ago issued a guide to the Natural History section of the Madras Museum, but very varied duties had prevented him from re-writing it, and bringing it up to date. The question whether guide-books should be issued in vernacular languages struck him as one which might be discussed.

II. *Mr. Ibrahim Rahimtoola* (Bombay) said that he regarded the preparation of guides to the collections of a museum as very important. He did not agree that such works should only be prepared by expert Museum officers but was of the opinion that they should be compiled by any competent person. He regarded it, however, as a very important part of the duties of a Museum curator to prepare guides and catalogues as regards the collections in their charge.

III. *Sardar Sahib Bhai Ram Singh* (Punjab) was of the opinion that it would be a great help to the visitors and would be much appreciated by the

public if guides were published in the vernacular of the provinces. Vernacular publications would be a great boon specially to the artisans who were generally quite unacquainted with the English language but were in great need of learning the descriptions of artistic collections. As far as possible the vernacular guide-books should be issued free of all cost or must be so priced as to fall within the means of the artisan classes. To encourage the artisans guide-books should be sold to them at half the price charged to ordinary visitors.

IV. Mr. Burkill objected to the proposal that guides should be required from the pens of Curators; it would be sufficient if they were required from competent authorities chosen by those responsible for the Museums. Their preparation should not be a first duty of the Curators.

V. Mr. Brown (Punjab) said that in connection with the Lahore Museum a series of guide-books were being prepared with the object of assisting the ordinary visitor to understand and appreciate the collections of objects displayed in the various departments of the museum. Each hand-book would cover one particular department such as Archaeology or Industrial Art and would contain a brief reference to the collection generally, together with a detailed account of a certain number of the most remarkable examples. The books would be printed in English, would contain a number of illustrations and be sold at the door for a few annas. They would take a purely popular form and were for the benefit of the intelligent visitor, either European or Indian, who wished to be supplied with a brief account of any particular department in which he was interested. With regard to a proposal that there should be publications in the vernacular it was felt that these were not required. The class of visitor which really desired information was that class which could usually understand English. This fact was brought to light in connection with a scheme for displaying labels in English as well as in the local vernacular. Those who could read the latter were generally sufficiently educated to read the former. A small price should be put on all guide-books. Pamphlets or similar productions issued free were generally not valued by the ordinary visitor.

After considerable informal discussion the following resolution was passed by a majority of 5 to 3. Several delegates did not vote:—

That the preparation of guides and catalogues is eminently desirable provided that such works can be prepared by the officer in charge or by some competent authority. That the issue of guides in the vernacular languages is quite unnecessary.

Ninth subject—moved by Mr. J. CAMERON,

"Art sale-rooms in connection with Museums."

I. Mr. Cameron (Mysore) said that Bangalore being situated in a pleasant part of India, the Museum was visited by a considerable number of foreign and monied people, who were often on the look-out for art curious such as are peculiar to Mysore. But his experience was that visitors of this class preferred to purchase articles on the spot and were chary of leaving orders behind them. It was thought at first that keeping a handy register of the names and full addresses of the principal artisans in the province would meet the requirements of the case, but it was not so, and some years ago it was permitted by the Darbar to open a small sale room in the museum where sandalwood carvings, inlaid work, lacquer work and such like could be sold for cash payment, the conditions laid down being that all articles were of the very best workmanship and that no profits were claimed by the museum authorities. At the start Government gave a little help, but now the sale room was practically self-supporting, as several artisans appreciated the advantage placed at their disposal and kept the room stocked with popular artware. Of course the whole business was on a very limited scale at present, and it was difficult to maintain workmanship of the highest quality when the artisans were engaged on special work for the Government or otherwise. As a rule they were not only limited in number but also widely scattered in a few remote villages or hamlets. The main object was to place good work within the reach of the buyer at original prices.

II. Mr. Burkill remarked that it behoved governments to be watchful for the encouragement of art, the artisans being never or rarely other than proletarians, unable to lock up capital in objects in order to offer them for sale.

III. Mr. Brown (Punjab) said that an Art sale room had been conducted in connection with the Lahore Museum for many years and the sales effected during the last five years had been as follows:—

1902-03	1903-04	1904-05	1905-06	1906-07.
Rs. 789-5-0	Rs. 1,330-5-0	Rs. 1,684-0-6	Rs. 2,023-8-6	Rs. 2,670-10-9.

The sale room was under the direct control of the Curator, who supervised the stocking of this department and arranged for the purchase of approved specimens of local manufacture for display in this room. Further, orders were registered for duplicates of any particular article or copies of any object exhibited in the permanent collections of the Museum. These orders were transmitted to workmen capable of carrying out the manufacture of the required article, which, when completed, was forwarded by the Museum office to the intending purchaser. This was one of the methods employed for conducting business in the Lahore sale room. Another branch of work was that of commission sale. Artisans were encouraged to bring approved specimens of their handiwork for display in the sale room of the Museum on the understanding that a small commission was charged on their sale. To bring the objects and advantages of the sale room to the notice of craftsmen and others interested, a circular had been issued and widely circulated by the Local Government. There was little doubt that this branch of the Museum was doing useful work, but it could be considerably improved and extended if it were properly staffed. To keep the sale room constantly stocked with approved articles required the whole time of an able man thoroughly acquainted with all the arts of the Province and also knowing the requirements of the would-be purchasers. With regard to the former, the sale room Superintendent would have to spend a great deal of his time in travelling about from one art centre to another arranging for purchases, superintending the manufacture of replicas and would give orders for articles which he knows from experience would find sale.

The Lahore Museum had not the staff to carry this work out properly, so that its sphere of utility was somewhat limited, but even in its present state a considerable amount of good was effected, and as the sale proceeds of the last 5 years indicated. With regard to the general principle involved in the maintenance of sale rooms in connection with Museums there were many objections to be brought forward. The principal objection was that they were competing with private enterprise and that their work should be left for the dealer to transact in his shop in the bazar. From the point of view of business this argument was incontrovertible but the artistic aspect of the case should not be overlooked. The dealer traded in every form of art workmanship, the good with the bad, and as often as not his stock consisted of the most popular and fashionable articles, which it would not be beside the mark to designate as frequently the least artistic and often the most degraded types of work. The dealer's object was business pure and simple and his stock was composed of articles gathered together for that purpose only. A sale room should however be conducted with a very different intention and it was felt that if maintained on proper lines it would not compete with private enterprise in the least degree. The main object of the sale room should be to bring to the notice of the purchasing public the very highest and best examples of local art industry; the matter of trade being a very secondary consideration as long as the concern were not run at a loss. A small but well conducted department with this intention would do a great deal towards maintaining the high quality of Indian Art, both as regards design and manufacture, and would further be a practical method of assisting the workmen to continue with their craft. Briefly the subject resolved itself into the question of, not "should sale rooms be maintained," but "by which

department should these sale rooms be maintained" and until this difficulty was satisfactorily solved Mr. Brown was of the opinion that some considerable good could be gained by associating them with Provincial Museums.

IV. *Sardar Sahib Bhai Ram Singh* (Punjab) said that the annual increase of sale proceeds of the Lahore Museum sale room indicated that this branch of the museum was achieving a great popularity every day. If it were placed in charge of an accomplished man having a knowledge of arts and specially well versed in book-keeping, assisted by a sufficient staff, it would no doubt do much good in maintaining the excellent quality of Indian Arts, as artisans would always be encouraged to turn out first class workmanship and would be given the necessary instruction and advice for that purpose.

V. *Dr. Mitra* (Kashmir) said that he was not in favour of having sale rooms in connection with Museums. The Museums could, however, do a great deal in encouraging and improving the Art Industries. In the Indian Museum there should be courts, where representative articles of all parts of India should be kept, for that would serve as a permanent exhibition of such articles.

A resolution proposing that Art sale rooms should be established in connection with provincial museums, in cases in which they did not already exist, was put forward but was negatived by eight votes to six.

Tenth subject. Certain questions as to details of Museum management put forward by the delegate from Baluchistan.

It was agreed that these questions should not be discussed at the Conference, as they could be settled better by a personal discussion with the Superintendents of the Indian Museum.

Eleventh subject—moved by MR. J. W. N. CUMMING,
"Financial aspects of Museums."

I. *Mr. Cumming* (Baluchistan) said that before commencing the discussion of the question of the financial aspects of museums, he would suggest that each representative state briefly the financial conditions under which his own particular museum was run, i.e., whether maintained wholly by Government or by a Native State or whether a private or Municipal concern and if so whether aided by Government. He thought it would also assist the deliberation of the conference if the delegates give some idea of the grants received and the cost and nature of establishments maintained therefrom. Once in possession of such data they would be in a better position to discuss the financial aspects of museums. To begin with the institution represented by himself, the Quetta Museum was purely a Government concern. An excellent building with good furniture had been provided and Government allowed an annual grant which this year (1907-1908) amounted to Rs. 300 for furniture, Rs. 820 for contingencies. Government allowed also for an establishment consisting of a bearer on Rs. 15 per month, a Chowkidar on Rs. 12 and a Sweeper on Rs. 10, the last two being intended also for the library, which received a grant-in-aid from the Government, being otherwise supported by public subscriptions, etc. The work of the Museum was carried on by Mr. Cumming as Honorary Secretary and Curator and he was assisted by a native clerk from one of the Government offices, who received for his trouble a small allowance of Rs. 15 per month. Neither of them could spare more than 2 hours a day on an average and this time was mostly taken up with the correspondence and other office work of the museum and of the Baluchistan Natural History Society which proved of much assistance to the museum. The result was that progress as regards classification and arrangement of exhibits must naturally be very slow. He might add that the Quetta Museum employed in the post of bearer a taxidermist trained in the Indian Museum, thanks to the liberality of the Hon'ble Sir Henry McMahon who allowed the man so employed another Rs. 15 per month from his own pocket, thus making his pay Rs. 30 in all. The Museum had a committee of management in charge of the museum consisting of the Political Agent,

Quetta, as President, and 5 members with Mr. Cumming as Honorary Secretary, and so far things had worked very smoothly. The Committee sat once a month; its proceedings were regularly recorded and the accounts were audited by one of its members. The arrangement as regards the establishment could not of course continue very much longer on its present lines, if the museum was to become as useful an Institution as the importance of Quetta demanded. Mr. Cumming found the work getting too heavy for him and he hoped it would not be long before Government would be induced to sanction a better establishment, which should he thought consist at least of a permanent Curator, and a more highly paid taxidermist and one peon in addition to the part services of a clerk, sweeper and chowkidar. A larger contingent grant would also be necessary if extensive models or casts and a complete set of works of reference were to be purchased and kept up to date.

II. *Mr. Thurston* (Madras) submitted the following statement as regards the Madras Museum:—

Salaries—

	Rs.	a	p.
Superintendent (500-50-800)	9,600	0	0
Exchange compensation allowance	600	0	0
Local allowance (200)	2,400	0	0

Establishment—

First assistant (60-2-80), Herbarium keeper (100-2-120)	2,376	0	0
Clerks (35-2-55), (30-1-40), (15-1-20) and Taxidermists (30-1-35), (20-1-25)	2,052	0	0
Servants 1 (15), 2 (12), 1 (11), 2 (10), 4 (9), 8 (8), 9 (7), 6 (8-1-10), 1 (7½), 1 (6), 3 (5), 1 (4½), 3 (4)	3,954	0	0

Connemara Public Library—Establishment—

Sub-Librarian (100-5-150)	1,800	0	0
Attendants (25-1-30), (15-1-20), (12-1-15)	624	0	0
Servants (8), (7), (4)	228	0	0

Allowance—

Travelling allowance	1,200	0	0
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Supplies and Services—

Cost of specimens purchased on tour	900	0	0
Objects of interest and coin purchased at Head Quarters	700	0	0
Fittings, furniture, etc., for the collection	2,400	0	0
Cost of Books and publications	900	0	0
Library	2,000	0	0
Lithographic plates	500	0	0
Ammunition	15	0	0
Charges for feeding live animals	275	0	0
Expenses—Reading Coin	10	0	0

Contingencies—

Purchase of furniture	60	0	0
Tour charges	285	0	0
Repairs to furniture	100	0	0
Cleaning charges	65	0	0
Postal charges	280	0	0
Telegram charges	20	0	0
Telephone charges	200	0	0
Rents, rates and taxes	4,473	0	0
Office Expenses	605	0	0

Marine Aquarium—Establishment—

Head Keeper (18-2-30), Second Keeper (10-1-15)	336	0	0
Servants 2 (9), 2 (8), 1 (7), 1 (5), 1 (3)	586	0	0

Supplies and services—

Food for animals	500	0	0
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Contingencies—

Lump provision	650	0	0
Add for rounding	4	0	0

GRAND TOTAL 40,700 0 0

III. *Mr. Brown* (Punjab) submitted a statement showing the annual expenditure of the Lahore Museum. He said also that special grants were occasionally sanctioned, but the sum expended on the Museum during a

normal year was that indicated in the statement. With regard to the control, etc., of the Lahore Museum it might be mentioned that it was financed by the Local Government aided by a contribution of Rs. 15 per mensem from the Lahore Municipality. It was controlled by a Committee of representative gentlemen belonging to the province, the Secretary of which is the Curator. A Committee meeting was held annually to read the report, pass the financial statement and to submit to the Local Government any proposals which might be approved. This method of conducting the business part of the Museum worked more satisfactorily. The building was open free to visitors all the year round except on the first Monday of each month, when it was reserved for ladies only. The number of visitors who passed through the turnstile during 1906-07 was 314,548. On the days devoted to the "purdah nashin" 4,420 women were admitted. On these occasions the Museum was strictly "purdah," all the men attendants being withdrawn and their places taken by a lady superintendent with a staff of female assistants.

LAHORE MUSEUM.

Statement of Annual Expenditure.

Particulars.	Amount.	Total.
<i>Establishment—</i>		
1 Curator	Rs. 1,200 0 0	1,200 0 0
1 Darogha	935 0 0	
1 Clerk	488 0 0	
1 Librarian	81 14 11	
1 Carpenter	325 0 0	
1 Label Writer	222 8 0	
1 Daftri	106 0 0	
1 Head Farash	96 0 0	
1 Chaprassee	84 0 0	
6 Farashes	429 11 4	
2 Chowkidars	168 0 0	
1 Mali	106 0 0	
1 Assistant Mali	77 0 0	
1 Bhisti	65 0 0	
2 Sweepers	93 0 0	
1 Lady Superintendent	48 0 0	
5 Female Attendants	52 0 0	
		3,377 2 3
<i>Contingencies—</i>		
Purchases	2,593 10 0	
Books and Journals	316 7 7	
Furniture	15 4 0	
Gardening	20 11 6	
Service Labels	93 4 0	
Stationery	78 3 0	
Photographs	58 11 0	
Railway freight	326 2 0	
Telegrams	7 15 0	
Sawdust	30 0 0	
Advertising	11 12 0	
Miscellaneous—nails, hinges, naphthaline, camphor, spirit, coolies, turpentine, kerosine, dusters, glue, paints, etc.	436 5 10	
		3,988 5 11
		8,565 8 2

IV. *Sardar Sahib Bhai Ram Singh* (Punjab) was of the opinion that provincial museums should be managed by a committee of respectable gentlemen of their provinces and the curator, who would be the Secretary. The general report and the financial statement should be placed by the Secretary before the Committee for audit and submission to the Local Government. For the financial aid of the Museum, Municipalities of the provinces should share expenses with the Local Governments as far as possible.

V. *Mr. Ganguli* (United Provinces) submitted the following statement as regards the Lucknow Museum:—

The Provincial Museum at Lucknow is maintained by annual grants from Provincial Revenues. Small contributions to its funds are received from some municipalities in the province but the amount of these do not exceed Rs. 150 in all and are paid into the Treasury to the credit of the Government. The annual expenditure is budgetted for by the Committee of Management and the Budget Estimates are passed by the Local Government. From the year 1885-86, which was the first year of its existence as a Provincial institution, to 1890-91, the annual grant ranged from Rs. 18,000 to Rs. 12,000. Its gradual reduction to the latter amount was due to the fact that when show cases and other fittings which the Museum required in the beginning had been supplied, the institution required a smaller grant for its maintenance. During the past five years the normal grant has fluctuated between Rs. 10,245 to Rs. 10,804. Special grants to meet emergencies, *e.g.*, cost of large collections of coins or other exhibits, are liberally made by the Local Government on application from the Committee. In 1903-04, a sum of Rs. 744 from Imperial sources was allotted by the Director General of Archaeology for purchase of antiquities for the Provincial Museum. The expenditure for the past five years is shown below under the chief budget heads:—

HEADS OF EXPENDITURE.	1902-03.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.	1906-07.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
<i>Establishment.</i>					
Curator	3,165	3,000	3,000	3,636	3,600
Establishment: 3 clerks, 1 Botanical Collector, 1 Taxidermist, 1 Carpenter, 1 Daftri and 19 servants	2,573	2,521	2,592	2,824	2,959
Travelling allowances	..	..	..	402	261
<i>Contingencies.</i>					
Acquisition and preservation of specimens	1,502	1,492 4,500	1,639 4,400	1,586	1,549
Library	1,000	996	999	547	998
New cases and furniture	300	500	500 3,000	500	499
Miscellaneous; clothing for servants, hot weather charges, water rate on buildings, etc.	968	1,041	975	1,079	995
	9,508	14,050	17,105	10,574	10,861

NOTE.—The figures in italics represent expenditure from special grants.

The present allotment of Rs. 11,000 is just sufficient to maintain the museum as it is now composed and organised. If it be intended to extend its scope by including a zoological section on a large scale, additional funds would be required not only to maintain a qualified staff of taxidermists and collectors but also to provide for improved show cases for an adequate display of the exhibits in the zoological collection.

VI. *Dr. Annandale* said that the Indian Museum was entirely a Government institution. The Natural History Section, of which he was in charge, included the zoological and archaeological collections; but the Superintendent of this section had also, in rather an indefinite manner, control of the buildings of the whole institution. The Museum was under a Board of Trustees, members of which were appointed by the Government of India, the Government of Bengal, the Asiatic Society of Bengal and by the Board itself. So far as the Natural History Section was concerned, the Imperial Government gave an annual grant of Rs. 36,000. In addition to this there were certain small sources of income, such as the sale of publications, about Rs. 1,500 a year. The Government grant was supposed to cover all expenses except the salaries of the gazetted staff (which come on an average to Rs. 28,000 a year and were also paid by Government) and necessary repairs to the buildings, which were undertaken by the Public Works Department. Of the Government grant of Rs. 36,000, Rs. 20,044 was paid in salaries to subordinate officers and servants, who were appointed by the Trustees with the consent of the Government of India. Until the present year no budget had been drawn up but each item above Rs. 50 was considered by the Trustees. This arrangement had not proved satisfactory, however, as it was impossible for the Superintendent to procure stores, purchase specimens or make arrangements about the publication of scientific papers without undergoing a somewhat cumbersome procedure. Before the beginning of the financial year 1907-08, therefore, a proposal to submit an annual budget and to grant the Superintendent increased powers as regards expenditure was drawn up by a sub-committee and accepted by the Trustees. A copy of the proposals in detail was submitted, but he would point out that both the library grant (Rs. 4,000) and the grant for expenses of publications (Rs. 4,000) had already proved inadequate and had been supplemented by special grants. The money for these special grants came from a reserve fund consisting mainly of the salaries of posts on the staff temporarily vacant, which the Trustees were permitted by Government to retain.

INDIAN MUSEUM, NATURAL HISTORY SECTION.

Allotment of Funds, 1907-1908.

	Rs.
Library (no work to cost more than Rs. 200 without special sanction)	4,000
Publications (no memoir to cost more than Rs. 500 without special sanction)	4,000
Stationery and Postage (without special sanction)	750
Transport of Specimens to consulting specialists (without special sanction)	300
Alcohol and drugs (without special sanction)	750
Scientific apparatus and glasses (no item to exceed Rs. 400 without special sanction)	3,000
Taxidermists' and carpenters' supplies (without special sanction)	1,000
Travelling allowance and collecting expenses of gazetted staff (without special sanction)	600
Travelling allowance and collecting expenses of subordinate staff and purchase of specimens (no item to exceed Rs. 200 without special sanction)	3,400

Expenditure on exhibition cases and the like was to be treated as extraordinary expenditure and was to come either from the reserve fund or to form the subject of a special application to Government.

VII. *Mr. I. H. Burkill* laid on the table the abstract statement of the financial position of the Industrial Section of the Indian Museum to be found in his report for the year 1905-06, pages 4 to 8.

The following resolution was passed unanimously:—

That each member of the Conference be asked to send to the Secretary for distribution and consideration an abstract statement* of the financial position, needs, prospects of the Museum he represents, and sources of the funds on which the Museum depends.

* The abstract statements which have been submitted are included in the present report.

Twelfth subject—moved by *MR. G. D. GANGULI*,

"The question of separating the botanical collection from the Lucknow Provincial Museum, etc."

I. This question was introduced by *Mr. Ganguli* (United Provinces), who said that he had been directed by the committee of management of the Lucknow Provincial Museum to ask the opinion of the Conference as to the disposal of the specimens in question. He explained how the collection had come to be in the Museum, gave details as to its condition, etc., and stated that a proposal had been made to hand it over to the Horticultural Gardens, Lucknow. He also gave particulars as regards the collection of economic products in the Lucknow Museum and asked for advice as regards them.

II. *Mr. Holland* thought it was within the province of the Conference to give advice on the point raised by *Mr. Ganguli*, as the Committee of Management of the Lucknow Museum asked for an opinion on the question. He stated that he had visited the Lucknow Museum himself at the request of His Honour Sir John Hewett, and had given a report containing advice as to the reorganization of the Museum. It was his opinion that the Lucknow Museum should concentrate on archaeology and numismatics—the two questions in which it had already established a first class position—that its botanical collections might be conveniently split off and handed over to the care of the officer in charge of the horticultural gardens, while it would be for the good of the public as well as for the benefit of zoology to remove the collections of stuffed animals, and to establish for them a separate museum in connection with zoological gardens in some convenient part of the city. The industrial collections might possibly be handed over to an industrial school, and the economic products might be made use of by the Provincial Agricultural Department. Thus, the suggestions made were in line with the principles governing the reorganisation of the Calcutta Museum, that is to say, the materials available in Lucknow should be divided into natural groups; and seeing it was not possible to keep these together in one institution, it would be better to develop along the lines suggested. The Chairman understood that it was the intention of Sir John Hewett to organize zoological gardens at Lucknow, and in them to establish a zoological museum as soon as the Provincial funds would permit of the additional expenditure involved. He was also in favour of recommending the Museum to hand over their botanical specimens to the horticultural gardens already established in Lucknow.

III. *Mr. Burkill* remarked that he was aware how little space for economic collections was available in the Lucknow Museum, and that he would like again to see the collections before making a recommendation upon the alternatives of housing them elsewhere or doing away with them.

In regard to this subject the following resolution was proposed and passed unanimously:—

That the Conference approve the proposal of the Committee of the Lucknow Museum to dismantle the collection of botanical specimens at present exhibited in that museum, but recommend that the specimens should not be destroyed, dispersed or sent elsewhere until the Reporter on Economic Products, who will be able to visit Lucknow in a few months, has had an opportunity of inspecting and reporting upon them.

Thirteenth subject—moved by *DR. A. MITRA*,

"The question of an annual museum conference."

I. *Dr. Mitra* (Kashmir) in opening the discussion, congratulated himself and his fellow delegates on the success of their labours, which had been of the greatest benefit to the curators of provincial museums present at the meeting. The Conference had discussed and had come to practical conclusions on most important questions of administration and other points connected therewith. He wished to make special mention of the scientific spirit with which the Chairman had presided, of the practical instruction received from the Superintendents of the Indian Museum, of the assistance

given by Mr. Thurston, and also of the important results arrived at by the sub-committee on art publications. Altogether the Conference had more than fully justified its existence and would be of immense good to the institutions represented by the various delegates, who now felt that each of them was a member of a conference of museums of the Indian Empire. They would now have a uniformity in their plan of work, and he was of the opinion that they could not have a better guide than the authorities of the "Central Imperial Museum" as he insisted on calling it in spite of objections that had been made to the word "Imperial." They had been brought into closer touch with one another and this could not but be profitable to all concerned.

As to future Conferences. It would be good if there could be an annual conference, but to this the Accountant General might object unless the Governments sanctioned additional grants for travelling allowances in the budget, and the Accountant General's objection would have great weight. Besides, the delegates had swallowed a great deal and must have time for digestion: it would take some time to make practical use of the information gained. He suggested, therefore, that the Conference should be triennial. During the intervening years the representatives of the different museums could of course consult one another and he would recommend that all local museums should vow, unofficially it might be, allegiance to the authorities of the Indian Museum. It would be useful if the Conference met at different centres. He would also suggest that if a standing committee were formed as an advisory body on all matters of museums in India, the work of the present Conference would be usefully kept up.

II. *Dr. Annandale* expressed hearty agreement with *Dr. Mitra* as regards the proposals that a triennial Conference should be summoned to meet at various centres and that a permanent standing committee should be formed. He felt very grateful for the sentiments expressed as regards the Indian Museum and believed that the present Conference would mark a new era as regards the relations between the Museums of India. Without losing their independence in the slightest, he believed that they would be able to enjoy a closer union both among themselves and with the Indian Museum. In one respect, however, it was perhaps the case that the present conference had not been quite so representative as it might have been, namely, in the fact that the Imperial Agricultural Department, the Archaeological Survey and the Bombay Natural History Society had not been officially represented. The Agricultural Department were getting together a very important entomological museum at Pusa; the Archaeological Survey would, if the scheme for the reorganization of the Indian Museum which the Chairman had explained were carried into effect, have control of the central archaeological collection; while the Bombay Natural History Society possessed, with the exception of the Indian and Madras Museums, by far the most important natural history collections in the country. If a triennial conference was to be held, he would recommend that these departments and this Society should be asked to send delegates to the next meeting. Possibly also delegates might be invited from Ceylon and other neighbouring countries. It would not be necessary to embody his suggestions in a formal resolution, as the standing committee, if it were formed and recognized by Government, could represent such matters to Government, if it were thought advisable.

III. *Mr. Brown* (Punjab) thought that a Conference each year would not be advisable, as it is quite possible that the resolutions brought forward from time to time would require a longer period than twelve months to have any appreciable effect on the policy of Museums generally. He agreed with *Dr. Mitra* that a Conference every third year would be more suitable and that these should be held at each Museum centre in rotation. In this connection he thought it desirable that delegates should be invited from other quarters than those represented at this Conference, and that particularly the Archaeological Department should depute an officer to indicate that department's interests in Museum work.

IV. *Sardar Sahib Bhai Ram Singh* (Punjab) was of the opinion that a general meeting of the delegates should be held annually, generally in Calcutta and sometimes in other stations wherever the Conference might appoint from time to time.

The following resolutions were passed unanimously:—

1. That a Conference be held triennially.
2. That a standing committee be appointed to make arrangements regarding future Conferences and to advise on Museum matters.
3. That the standing committee take steps to ensure that bodies interested in Museum matters shall be represented at future Conferences.
4. That the standing committee consist of five members.
5. That the standing committee consist of Messrs. T. H. Holland, E. Thurston, Percy Brown, and of the Superintendents of the Natural History and Industrial Sections of the Indian Museum, and that they shall have the power to fill vacancies that may occur in the membership of the committee.

THE RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE CONFERENCE.

The resolutions passed by the Conference have already been given under the headings of the various debates from which each arose; but it may be convenient to print them again together, giving to each a number, which may be used as a reference in any future correspondence. The Conference had no power to pledge the Governments or Institutions represented by the delegates to the expenditure of money or to the official sanction of its proposals. The majority of its resolutions, therefore, although some deal with matters which can be arranged directly by the heads of the local and central museums, must be regarded as advice given to the Imperial and Local Governments of India by the Conference.

It may be as well to state the method in which the resolutions were drawn up and discussed. In the first place, at the end of each debate, the subjects to be embodied in the resolutions arising therefrom and the opinions of the delegates to be expressed were discussed informally and a sub-committee was appointed to draft the resolution for each day's debates. This sub-committee consisted, so far as the first day's debates were concerned, of the following delegates:—Messrs. Annandale, Burns, and Cameron; while Messrs. Annandale and Thurston were appointed to deal in the same way with the debates of the other two days during which the Conference sat. The drafted resolutions were then submitted at a special meeting held at the end of the Conference and their wording was carefully considered. In cases in which there was any difference of opinion an informal discussion took place, and even in those in which the opinions of the delegates were unanimous, changes in the wording of the resolution were frequently suggested and discussed.

The resolutions the first word of which is marked with an asterisk were passed unanimously, the others by a majority.

- I. *That the systematic exchange of duplicates and of reproduction of unique specimens between the Indian Museum and the Provincial† Museums would be beneficial to both from a scientific and an economic point of view.
- II. *That in order to ascertain the wants of the different Museums as regards duplicates and reproductions, the Superintendent of the Indian Museum should have opportunities of consulting with the officers of the Provincial† Museums from time to time.
- III. *That lists of duplicate specimens available for distribution in the various Museums should be circulated.

† The word "Provincial" is understood to include Presidency and State Museums.

- IV. *That, in order that these proposals should be carried out, it is necessary that there should be a considerable increase in the expert staff of the central museum at Calcutta and in the skilled subordinate staff both of the Indian and of Provincial Museums.
- V. *That as the qualities and training necessary for subordinates who have the sorting, cataloguing and distribution of specimens cannot be gauged by the ordinary standard of examination, Directors of Public Instruction in India should be informed of the qualifications necessary for the work and of the prospects of the boys fitted to undertake it, and that selected candidates for the posts in the Provincial Museums should undergo a period of training in the Indian Museum.
- VI. *That taxidermists for the Provincial Museums should be trained in the Indian Museum, and that an expert taxidermist should be employed from Europe or America and attached to the staff of the Indian Museum, in order that he might both do the work of that institution and supervise the training of the provincial men.
- VII. *That in order to assist the Indian Museum in its survey of the fauna of India, local museums shall give what assistance they can, and that the Superintendent of the Natural History Section shall be asked to draw up and circulate a statement of the special requirements of the Museum.
- VIII. *That in order to interest recognized authorities on Natural History, Archaeology and other subjects in the different provinces they shall be given a definite position on the staff of the Museums by their appointment as honorary officers.
- IX. *That the "Records" and "Memoirs" of the Geological Survey shall be the recognized official medium for the publication of scientific geological work in India, the "Records" and "Memoirs" of the Indian Museum for that of zoology and the publications of the Botanical Survey for that of botanical work, the "Records" in each case being devoted to shorter papers and notes, and the "Memoirs" to more detailed monographs.
- X. *That in every case the size of the "Records" shall be super royal octavo ($11\frac{1}{2}'' \times 7''$).
- XI. *That in the "Records" each paper shall commence on a separate page.
- XII. *The Conference consider it desirable that the publications on Art—Pure and Industrial—made in India should be unified. The publication should take the form of a serial edited and conducted in a way similar to the Memoirs of the Geological Survey, Zoological, Botanical and Archaeological departments.
- XIII. *That the Provincial monographs on Industrial Arts and the Technical Art series published by the Survey of India should be absorbed. From the serial extra plates might be easily struck off for the use of Schools of Art and for other purposes.
- XIV. *The Conference believe that the present system, by which the Provincial Governments are asked to write monographs on specified subjects, cannot much longer continue, because the subjects common to most of the provinces have now been exhausted, and further the Conference believe that the Technical Art series find a far more extensive sale among European visitors to India.

than among the class for whom it was intended. The class to which these visitors belong would be more easily reached by a serial than they are by the present publication, while the artisans should be reached by pattern books through the Schools of Art. The serial would form the basis from which the designs of the pattern books should be taken.

- XV. *That all zoological types in India shall be deposited in the Indian Museum, but that the Superintendent of the Natural History Section shall be empowered, with the consent of the Trustees, to transfer to the British Museum (Natural History) such entomological "types" as may be, in his opinion, in danger of destruction owing to the climate.
- XVI. *That all Palaeontological "types" shall be placed in charge of the Director of the Geological Survey, and all Botanical "types" in that of the Director of the Botanical Survey.
- XVII. *That in each case either a duplicate, a drawing or photograph of the type shall be sent to the institution from which the original specimen was obtained, and that the "type" itself may be lent for scientific examination to this or other institutions if it can be sent with safety.
- XVIII. *That it would be useful that lists of types should be published periodically.
- XIX. *That all specimens received at any Museum shall be entered in a general register as expeditiously as possible and that the register shall be divided into volumes representing the main sections of the collection in such a way that the ordinary clerk can appreciate the difference between these sections at sight and with no possibility of confusion. The following eight headings were approved as being suitable for the collections of a Provincial Museum:—
1. Archaeology and Epigraphy.
 2. Coins and Medals.
 3. Art and Ethnology.
 4. Economic Products.
 5. Geology.
 6. Plants.
 7. Animals.
 8. Books, Maps and Manuscripts.
- XX. *That the Conference expressed their approval of the scheme for splitting the Indian Museum into sections as proposed by the Trustees and were of the opinion that the principles involved were the best so far as the central museum for India was concerned.
- XXI. *Dr. Annandale and Mr. Burkill were requested to incorporate their remarks on the subject of the preservation of specimens in a note and to circulate them to the different museums. They were also requested to conduct systematic experiments on the effect of naphthaline in preserving specimens of different kinds from the attack of insects.
- XXII. That the provincial museums of India should in the main confine their scope to the presidency, province or state in which they are situated.

- XXIII. That in the opinion of the Conference, it is desirable that in every province or state there should be but one Government or State public museum.
- XXIV. *That the officers of every provincial museum should have direct access to a good reference library, and that this library should whenever possible be connected with the museum.
- XXV. That the preparation of guides and catalogues is eminently desirable provided that such works can be prepared by the officer in charge or by some competent authority. That the issue of guides in the vernacular languages is quite unnecessary.
- XXVI. *That each member of the Conference be asked to send to the Secretary for distribution and consideration an abstract statement of the financial position, needs, prospects of the Museum he represents, and sources of the funds on which the Museum depends.
- XXVII. *That the Conference approve the proposal of the Committee of the Lucknow Museum to dismantle the collection of Botanical specimens at present exhibited in that Museum, but recommend that the specimens should not be destroyed, dispersed or sent elsewhere until the Reporter on Economic Products, who will be able to visit Lucknow in a few months, has had an opportunity of inspecting and reporting upon them.
- XXVIII. *That a Conference be held triennially.
- XXIX. *That a standing committee be appointed to make arrangements regarding future Conferences and to advise on Museum matters.
- XXX. *That the standing committee take steps to ensure that bodies interested in Museum matters shall be represented at future Conferences.
- XXXI. *That the standing committee consist of five members.
- XXXII. *That the standing committee consist of Messrs. T. H. Holland, E. Thurston, Percy Brown and of the Superintendents of the Natural History and Industrial Sections of the Indian Museum, and that they shall have the power to fill vacancies that may occur in the membership of the committee.

Read again G.O.No.204 Edl., dated 18th March 1908.)

C.No.2235, From the Govt. of India, No.9212-18-9, d/6-10-08.

ORDER:- 736 d/30-10-08.
P.S.

A copy of the report ~~received from~~
~~the Government of India~~ containing the
full proceedings of and the resolutions
passed by the conference of curators of
Museums in India which was held in
December 1907, will be communicated to
the Superintendent, Government Museum,
with the following observations of the
Government of India on the resolutions
passed by the conference.

2. Resolutions IV and VI. The
conference recommends considerable
increases in the staff of the Central
Museum at Calcutta and in the skilled
subordinate staff both of the Indian
and of Provincial Museums, and the
appointment of an expert taxidermist
from Europe or America. Proposals for
increasing the expert staff of the
Indian Museum have already occupied the
attention of the Government of India for
some time, while as regards the Curators
recommendation for the appointment of an
expert

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expert taxidermist, the Government of India consider that, for the present at any rate, it is unlikely that they will be in a position to carry it out. With regard to the question of increasing the skilled subordinate staff of the Madras Museum, the Superintendent will be requested to report whether any and if so, what increase is ~~considered~~ necessary. He will also report whether he considers it necessary that any one from Madras should be sent to the Indian Museum for training in ~~taxidermy~~

3. Resolutions XII to XIV. These resolutions deal with the discontinuance of the existing publications on art and their replacement by a serial publication to be edited and conducted in the same manner as the memoirs of the ~~xxx~~ scientific departments. The Government of India consider that the conference have not suggested any practical means by which their suggestion may be carried out and have reserved the curator's proposals for separate consideration.

4. The other resolutions passed by the conference consist mainly of suggestions and advice for the guidance of those responsible for the management of the Museum and require no comments. The Government of India are glad to recognise the

useful

5
 useful nature of the work done by the conference and ask for an expression of opinion on the proposals contained in Resolutions XXVIII to XXXII ~~mutual for~~ holding future conferences triennially and for the appointment of a Standing Committee for the purpose. The Superintendent, Government Museum, will be requested to submit his remarks on these proposals at an early date.

T.K.
 21-10-08.

K.R.
 21-10-08.

Cal
 28.10.08

ASQ
 29.10.08

To The Supt. Govt. museum.
 Copy to the D.P.I. ✓
 The Suppl. School of Arts, thro' the D.P.I.

Sd/- with
 Report
 3/11/08

} with copy of Report

ORDINARY.

PREFERENCE.

URGENT (a).

EDUCATIONAL
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

20

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Notes.....6

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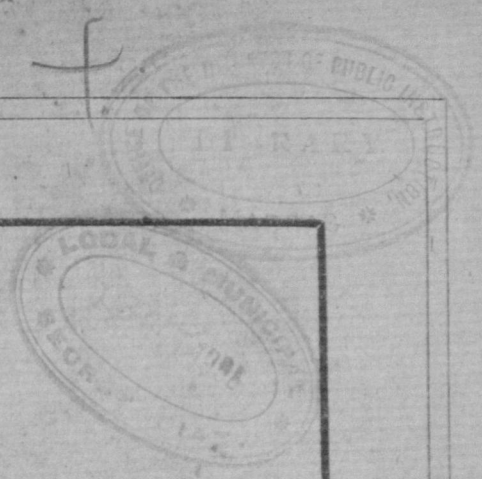
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To 736
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Report
OF THE
Conference as regards Museums
in India

Held at Calcutta on
Dec. 27th to 31st, 1907



CALCUTTA
SUPERINTENDENT GOVERNMENT PRINTING, INDIA
1908

**Report of the Conference as regards Museums in India
held in Calcutta, December 27th-31st, 1907.**

The Conference was summoned by the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry, in order to give representatives of different local governments and native states an opportunity of discussing their future policy as regards local museums with one another and with the Trustees of the central (Indian) museum in Calcutta. Each Government or State was invited to send one or more delegates to the Conference, and it was laid down that the delegates should not necessarily be officers directly connected with the management of a museum. The Trustees were also invited to nominate delegates and to make arrangements in Calcutta for holding the conference.

The following delegates were nominated :—

By the Government of Madras,

MR. E. THURSTON, L.R.C.P., F.R.M.S., &c., Superintendent of the Government Museum, Madras.

By the Government of Bombay,

THE HON'BLE MR. IBRAHIM RAHIMTOOLA, C.I.E., and MR. C. L. BURNS, Principal of the School of Art, Bombay.

By the Government of the United Provinces,

MR. R. BURN, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner, Gonda, and MR. G. D. GANGULI, Curator of the Provincial Museum, Lucknow.

By the Government of the Punjab,

MR. PERCY BROWN, A.R.C.A., Principal of the School of Art, Lahore, and SARDAR SAHIB BHAI RAM SINGH, Vice-Principal of the same institution.

By the Trustees of the Indian Museum,

The Chairman of the Trustees (MR. T. H. HOLLAND, F.R.S., Director of the Geological Survey of India), the Superintendent of the Natural History Section (DR. N. ANNANDALE, D.Sc.), and the Superintendent of the Industrial Section (MR. I. H. BURKILL, M.A.). These officers were also invited to represent the interests of the Government of Bengal.

By the Hon. the Agent to the Governor General in Central India,

MR. PERCY HIDE, M.A., Principal, Daly College, Indore.

By the Hon. the Agent to the Governor General in Baluchistan,

MR. J. W. N. CUMMING, Honorary Secretary and Curator, Quetta Museum.

By the Mysore Darbar,

MR. J. CAMERON, Superintendent, Government Museum, Bangalore.

By the Kashmir Darbar,

DR. A. MITRA, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., Curator, Srinagar Museum.

By the Baroda Darbar,

DR. M. K. KANGA, M.A., Director of the State Museum, Baroda.

By the Bhopal Darbar,

SYED ENAYET KARIM.

By the Meywar Darbar,

PANDIT GOURI SHANKAR, Superintendent, Public Library and Museum, Udaipur.

PROGRAMME OF THE MEETINGS.

The conference assembled at the Indian Museum on Friday, December 27th, 1907, at 10 A.M.

All the delegates were present, with the exception of those from the Punjab (who telegraphed that they had been unavoidably detained on their journey) and of Mr. R. Burn from the United Provinces, who wrote that local duties connected with famine would prevent his attending the conference.

The Chair was taken by the Hon'ble Mr. J. F. Finlay, C.S.I., Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, who had kindly consented to convene the meeting. After welcoming the delegates to Calcutta and explaining briefly the genesis of the conference he called upon the meeting to elect a chairman. Mr. E. Thurston (Madras) proposed the name of Mr. T. H. Holland, who had taken a very active part in the preparations for the conference. The proposal was seconded by Mr. J. Cameron (Mysore) and carried unanimously.

Mr. Holland then delivered an inaugural address from the chair, which was vacated by Mr. Finlay.

Dr. Annandale was elected Honorary Secretary to the Conference on the proposal of the Chairman, which was seconded by Mr. Cameron (Mysore) and carried unanimously.

The topics to be discussed by the Conference were then considered and the following list was drawn up:—

1. Systematic exchange of duplicates and casts of unique specimens.
2. Provincial organization of collecting in the field.
3. The publication of results.
4. Disposal of type specimens, their registration in catalogues distributed for information of workers. The registration of new specimens.
5. Classification of public exhibits and reference collections.
6. Methods for the preservation of specimens and labels specially suitable to the climate.
7. Recognized special functions of particular Provincial Museums.
8. The preparation of guides for the public.
9. Art sale rooms in connection with Museums.
10. Certain questions as to details of Museum management put forward by the delegate from Baluchistan.
11. Financial aspects of Museums.
12. The question of separating the Botanical collections from the Lucknow Provincial Museum for the purpose of handing over the specimens to the Horticultural Gardens, Lucknow.
13. Question of an Annual Museum Conference.

It was agreed on the proposal of the Chairman, that each topic should be introduced by one of the delegates, but that the discussion should be informal. As no stenographer was present, each delegate who spoke on any topic was requested to send his remarks in writing to the Honorary Secretary to be incorporated in the report of the conference. It was agreed that a sub-committee should be appointed to summarize the discussion at the end of each meeting and draft resolutions based thereon.

The first topic was then introduced and discussed by the delegates present and the meeting was adjourned to allow the delegates from the Punjab to take part in the discussion.

On Sunday, December 29th, the delegates inspected the different sections of the Indian Museum informally.

The conference re-assembled at 10-30 A.M. on Monday, December 30th, Mr. Percy Brown and Sardar Sahib Bhai Ram Singh being present in addition to those who had attended the preliminary meeting. The Honorary Secretary announced that the former gentlemen had expressed their opinion in writing as to the questions discussed at the previous meeting. The following topics were then introduced and discussed:—

1. Provincial organization of collecting in the field.
2. The publication of results.

3. Disposal of type specimens, their registration in catalogues distributed for information of workers. The registration of new specimens.
4. Classification of public exhibits and reference collections.
5. Methods for the preservation of specimens and labels specially suitable to the climate.
6. Recognized special functions of particular Provincial Museums.
7. The preparation of guides for the public.
8. Art sale rooms in connection with Museums.
9. Financial aspects of Museums.

It was agreed that Mr. Cumming (Baluchistan) should discuss the various questions put forward by him with the heads of the Natural History and Industrial Sections of the Indian Museum.

The meeting was then adjourned until the following morning.

On Thursday, December 31st, at 10-30 A.M., it met to discuss the last two items of the agenda, and in the afternoon of the same day a final meeting was held in order that the resolutions agreed upon by the conference might be formally passed, after their wording had been carefully considered.

The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman and the Honorary Secretary, both of whom replied in suitable terms.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN.

GENTLEMEN,

In thanking you for the compliment offered by electing me to be the Chairman of this Conference, I wish to convey to the delegates, on behalf of our Board of Trustees, a welcome to the Indian Museum.

As a supplement to the remarks made by the Hon'ble Mr. Finlay, who has explained the objects of our Conference, I might give a brief indication of the origin of the proposal to hold a conference in Calcutta. About three years ago, when we found that the Indian Museum was attaining dimensions too unwieldy for the present system of control, we had to face two alternative reforms—either the linking up of all sections under the administrative control of a single Director, who would also be the Inspector-General of Museums in India, or the division of the Museum into natural sections with independence as far as their purely internal affairs are concerned.

The questions involved have been very thoroughly discussed during the past three years by the Trustees of the Indian Museum, the Government of India and the Local Governments, the result being that the Government of India have now finally accepted, as the best solution of our difficulties, the breaking up of the institution into five distinct sections. The section dealing with Geology will remain as before under the Director of the Geological Survey. The other collections now under the control of a Board of Trustees will be divided into four sections—(a) Archæology, which will be handed over to the control of the Director-General of Archæology; (b) objects of industrial and fine art will be put under the control of the Principal of the School of Art, whose institution adjoins the Museum; (c) industrial collections will be placed under the Reporter on Economic Products; and (d) collections relating to Zoology and Anthropology will be administered by a Superintendent directly responsible to the Board of Trustees.

In addition to the administration of the Zoological and Anthropological Museum by powers similar to those now possessed, the Trustees of the Indian Museum will act as an advisory body to Government with regard to the other sections. They will also control regulations relating to the compound, rules regarding the admission of the public, and the discipline of the servants; but the purely scientific work of the sections will be under the control of the departments to which they in future will be linked.

The organization thus projected for the Indian Museum differs in one essential principle from that of the Provincial Museums in India and most Museums in Europe. In the case of Provincial Museums, the collections are

generally too small to permit of the entertainment of specialists for each division of natural knowledge. The system of administration now accepted for the Indian Museum would, therefore, not be practicable from the financial point of view for such institutions. The Madras Museum is an instance of an institution that approaches the stage requiring specialization, but as a Provincial type it has attained, under the management of Mr. Thurston, what should be regarded as an ideal Museum of the kind. In most European Museums, the conditions attached to legacies and bequests, as well as the complicated vested interests involved, make it difficult, and in some cases impossible, now to introduce a system of administration which some of us regard as a more scientific classification of functions than the system of placing a compound Museum, including exhibits of all classes, under one Director. The collections in the Indian Museum have now attained dimensions that necessitate and justify the employment of separate scientific specialists for the various natural sections. Fortunately, on reaching this stage, we are still but slightly tied by vested interests, and the Government have now decided to adopt the principle of decentralisation before the machine has reached a state of complication too great to permit of the application of the new system of classification. It has been decided, with sanction of the Secretary of State, to introduce during the next session an Act in Council which will permit of the required devolution of responsibilities and the corresponding reform in the constitution of the Board of Trustees.

With the formulation of a satisfactory scheme of reorganization for the Indian Museum, arose the question of our relationship to the Provincial Museums. The alternative scheme provided for the appointment of an Inspector-General, whose duties would be to bring the Central Museum into correspondence with those in the provinces for the purposes of exchanging specimens, and generally to bring all the institutions to a more uniform and higher level of efficiency. To meet the loss of this feature of the scheme that provided for a single Director of the Indian Museum and Inspector-General of Museums in India, Mr. Cousens of Poona suggested that some of the functions of the proposed Inspector-General might be accomplished by periodical conferences of Curators. As the responsibilities and qualifications of the Curators differ almost as widely from one another as their Museums do, it appeared to be dangerous to draw up a definite system for organising periodical conferences without first making an experimental test of the scheme proposed. Consequently the Government of India invited the Local Governments and States to send representatives to a Conference to be held in Calcutta during the present cold weather and the delegates now assembled have come in reply to this invitation.

The questions which I have suggested for discussion deal mainly with problems that specially concern museum curators in India. When we have shown that we can discuss these with profit, we shall be in a position to make recommendations regarding the future organization of conferences if they appear to be practicable and likely to lead to profit. The first item of business to undertake is the appointment of a Secretary for the present Conference, and as Dr. Annandale has acted in this capacity so far for the Local Committee, and has the machinery at hand for the clerical work necessary, I would suggest his name as Secretary of the Conference.

SUMMARY OF DEBATES WITH RESOLUTIONS PASSED.

First subject—moved by DR. ANNANDALE,

"Systematic exchange of duplicates and casts of unique specimens."

I. Dr. Annandale, Superintendent of the Natural History Section of the Indian Museum, opened the debate. He stated that the Indian Museum possessed large stores of duplicate zoological specimens, which he would be very pleased to distribute. This was rendered impossible at present by the smallness of the Museum staff, both as regards trained zoologists and as regards trustworthy subordinates skilled in the sorting and packing of

specimens. Such subordinates were difficult to obtain in India and had to be trained in the Museum. It was most important that no specimen should be sent out from a scientific institution with a name that was not absolutely authentic. In the case of a few groups of animals the Museum would be glad to receive and classify collections in exchange for a proportion of the specimens, but the high degree of specialization to which the science of zoology had attained made it impossible at present to undertake work of the kind except to a very limited extent. The Indian Museum was always glad to receive duplicate specimens from Provincial Museums, because, except in a very few groups of animals, the fauna of India was still practically unknown. Nothing was too common to be of value; specimens which were not wanted for the Museum itself could generally be exchanged for others that were wanted from European or American Museums. The Indian Museum was the central Museum for the whole of India and as such was bound both to help Provincial Museums and to ask help from them. Its main function, so far as the Natural History Section was concerned, was to collect and preserve for reference as complete a collection of the Indian Fauna as was possible and to do such research upon the accumulated material as would elucidate the varied problems connected with the zoology of the Indian Empire and the surrounding countries.

II. Mr. Holland mentioned that, as regards geological specimens, he had undertaken for the Nagpur Museum to name the mineral and geological exhibits, and to add from time to time specimens collected by the Geological Survey officers who were working in the Central Provinces. But the offer was made and accepted on the understanding that unique specimens, types and material of exceptional scientific value found in the Nagpur collections should be transferred to Calcutta. As no other Museum in the country contains a sufficient number of such specimens to make their retention the foundation of a reference collection for any branch of geology, the same system might be adopted for all the Museums in India, without fear of diminishing their average worth; on the other hand the Provincial Museums would all gain largely by the adoption of this proposal. Obviously such a system could not be applied indiscriminately to all subjects; for instance, Archaeology and Numismatics are represented by first class reference collections in some Provincial Museums.

His principal difficulty in effecting exchanges and in making donations to other Museums was, as explained by Dr. Annandale, insufficiency of staff to do the purely mechanical work of sorting out, packing and cataloguing the duplicate material that could readily be spared for other museums. It was also difficult to learn what was most required by the Provincial Museums; but this difficulty might be removed and the other partially obviated by the Provincial Curators themselves taking the opportunity, when in Calcutta, to select from among our collection of duplicates, the specimens they require. It would be perfectly easy to grant facilities for such a practice as far as Geology was concerned.

One of the chief defects of the geological collections was poverty in the commonest types of rocks and minerals, such as ordinary quartzites, sandstones and shales. These naturally, presenting no features generally of scientific interest, were not collected ordinarily by officers in the field; but they were wanted in considerable numbers for the use of students in the various Colleges and Museums of India. The Geological Survey proposed, therefore, as soon as practicable, to appoint two or three collectors, whose duties would be to sample occurrences of unusual value, to collect hand-specimens of the commoner rock-types, and, so far as possible, to make up collections to be given as donations to the smaller Museums and Colleges.

III. Commenting on these subjects Mr. Cameron (Mysore) enquired what arrangements could be made to meet charges for packing and forwarding such specimens, and suggested that while the Indian Museum would probably meet its own charges the Provincial Museums should do the same. He also warmly supported the Chairman's suggestion that representatives from Provincial Museums might be allowed to visit the Indian Museum for the purpose of making approved selections from time to time and that on such

occasions they should not come empty-handed, but bring duplicates that may be required at Calcutta from their own Museum.

IV. *Mr. Burkill* said that he could supply duplicate material as worked up and would prefer to do it on indent. He did not demand a definite *quid pro quo*, believing that a good understanding was far better than any contract.

V. *Mr. Thurston* (Madras) suggested that the zoological section of the Indian Museum might be glad to receive duplicate specimens, even of common species, from the various Provincial Museums, for exhibition, distribution or reference in the reserve collection.

VI. *Mr. Ganguli* (United Provinces) remarked that the best way in which co-operation could be maintained in respect of exchanging duplicate specimens or of procuring new specimens for each museum would be by preparing lists of desiderata and circulating them to institutions which were in a position to supply them. These remarks had special reference to collections of natural history specimens. With the exception of the Indian Museum, Calcutta, few organizations at present existed which were able to meet the requirements of Provincial Museums after supplying their own. With reference to the question raised by Dr. Annandale as to the expense and labour involved in getting up duplicate specimens for Provincial Museums, he remarked that the cost of such specimens should be made a charge on the institution benefited by them, the Government of the Province concerned providing funds to meet the same in cases where it could not be settled by exchange.

VII. *Mr. Burns* (Bombay) said that the question of making casts of museum specimens depended only upon the addition to the staff of museums of a competent moulder. The training of such men could either be undertaken at the four principal Schools of Art, or one of them could open a special section for this purpose. The men to be trained could either be natives of the locality in which the School of Art was situated, or selected men could be sent by Museums to undergo a course of training at the School. The latter proceeding would be, in his opinion, preferable.

VIII. *Mr. Hide* (Central India) suggested that the difficulty of recruiting the subordinate staff of the Indian Museum might be met by sending a circular each year to the Head Masters—and specially the English Head Masters—of large Indian Schools. The circulars would make clear the kind of men wanted and would give an account of the pay and prospects of men employed in the Museum.

IX. With reference to the remarks made by Dr. Annandale regarding the distribution of duplicates in the Indian Museum among other Museums in India, *Mr. Cumming* (Baluchistan) agreed with the Chairman that each Museum should send a representative to Calcutta to make such selection as may be actually required from among the duplicates in question, as many Provincial Museums might not desire or have room for specimens other than those of local interest. As regards Provincial Museums supplying the Indian Museum with specimens he agreed that this was very necessary so far as duplicates were concerned. In the case of single specimens these should be retained by the Provincial Museums concerned; but casts might be supplied or, when practicable, the originals might be sent to the Indian Museum for inspection, registration and return. Where the Indian Museum had only a few duplicates of specimens which might be of use to several museums they might be issued to Museums in the same order as was observed in connection with the distribution of coins.

X. *Dr. Mitra* (Kashmir) suggested that every local Museum should contribute, whenever it was possible to do so, duplicates of specimens which might be of interest and which might not be present in the Indian Museum. The Indian Museum represented the Museums of the Indian Empire and therefore should contain everything which could be found in all parts of the Empire, to which end the local and provincial museums should help. The best specimens of Arts and Industrial products of every part of the Empire should be shown in the Indian Museum. This would, for obvious reasons,

greatly benefit these industries. He should, for instance, like that there should be a "Kashmir Court" in the Indian Museum where representative selections of Kashmir Art Industries might be kept. If the Indian Museum could bear the cost, well and good, but as Kashmir Art Industries would be greatly benefited by such a show he would be greatly pleased to recommend the traders and the Darbar to consider the question of bearing some portion of the cost. Calcutta was visited by people from all parts of the world, so the advantages of such a permanent exhibition of local art industries were obvious. As regards exchanges of specimens, whenever duplicates were available it should be done. Casts of unique specimens or photographs might also be exchanged.

XI. *Mr. Brown* (Punjab) proposed that something might be done with regard to a systematic exchange of reserve specimens, by each Museum publishing at certain intervals (say quarterly) a list of objects of which it has duplicates, and circulating this among other museums. At the same time a few of the more important requirements of the Museum might be indicated in a separate column. He did not say that this would meet the case in its entirety, but it would be a commencement, and might be the means of bringing the Museums at least into touch with one another, leading to larger developments later on. He thought this might be of use where a Curator required a particular specimen to complete a series and was not certain of the locality from which it could be best obtained.

The above was only an alternative to the proposal that Curators should visit each Museum in turn to see what articles were in those Museums of which they require duplicates or casts. What was regarded as a common species in one Museum, might be rare in another, and one for which the Curator of the latter has been searching for years. Correspondence would not bring these cases to light and he thought that they could only be met by personal visits. Some action might be proposed to bring this to the notice of local governments, etc., to enable Curators to make a tour of all the Indian Museums.

XII. *Sardar Sahib Bhai Ram Singh* (Punjab) suggested that the curators of the Indian Museum and of Provincial Museums should arrange occasionally a list, with photographs of the objects of which they had duplicates, and should send it to the other Museums. This system would enable the Curators to pick out such duplicates as they required. It was most essential that the Curators should make occasional visits to the other Museums. A general meeting of the delegates should be held annually, generally in Calcutta, and sometimes in Bombay, Madras, etc., wherever the Conference might appoint from time to time.

In connection with this debate the following resolutions were passed unanimously:—

1. That the systematic exchange of duplicates and of reproduction of unique specimens between the Indian Museum and the Provincial Museums would be beneficial to both from a scientific and economic point of view.
2. That in order to ascertain the wants of the different Museums as regards the duplicates and reproductions, the Superintendent of the Indian Museum should have opportunities of consulting with the officers of the Provincial Museums* from time to time.
3. That lists of duplicate specimens available for distribution in the various Museums should be circulated.
4. That, in order that these proposals should be carried out, it is necessary that there should be a considerable increase in the expert staff of the Central Museum at Calcutta and in the skilled subordinate staff both of the Indian and of Provincial Museums.
5. As the qualities and training necessary for subordinates who have the sorting, cataloguing and distribution of specimens cannot be gauged by the ordinary standard of examination, Directors

* The word "Provincial" in this respect is understood to include Presidency and State Museums.

of Public Instruction in India should be informed of the qualifications necessary for the work and for the prospects of the boys fitted to undertake it, and that selected candidates for the posts in the Provincial Museums should undergo a period of training in the Indian Museum.

Second subject—moved by MR. J. W. N. CUMMING,
"Provincial organization of collecting in the field."

I. In opening the debate Mr. Cumming stated what had been done in the direction of collections in Baluchistan.

The Quetta Museum and Library building had been formally opened to the public during the autumn of 1906. Prior to this, however, a fairly large and useful collection of works of reference, specimens of local arts, manufacture and economic products, agricultural implements, and objects of archæological interest had been collected by Mr. Hughes Buller (now of the Bengal Service) in connection with his duties as Superintendent of Imperial Gazetteers, Baluchistan. These were transferred *en bloc* to the Museum. The Museum once opened, gentlemen who were interested in natural history had promptly come forward and generously presented some of their valuable collections of works of reference, shells, birds' eggs, etc., so that the Museum had a good deal of material to start work on immediately. To further the work of collecting the Hon'ble Sir Henry McMahon, Agent to the Governor General, personally interested himself in the matter, convened a public meeting of the Residents of Quetta, there and then formed what is now known as the Baluchistan Natural History Society, of which he himself accepted the Presidentship and induced many of the members to also join the Bombay Natural History Society. The latter Society in return had presented the Baluchistan Society with a complete set of all the back numbers of their journal.

As the space in the museum building was somewhat limited it was made a condition of joining the Baluchistan Natural History Society that members should only contribute to the Museum objects obtained locally and should be most particular in recording on their contributions the locality whence obtained, with date. The formation of this Society had been extremely helpful to the Museum as free contributions of various sorts come in rapidly. In addition gardeners, cultivators and others of the poor class had been induced to bring all the rats, snakes, etc., they could secure and small sums were paid as remuneration for their trouble, so that the Museum obtained the collections by donations, from persons interested in Natural History and also by purchase. The donations, however, came mostly from persons living in and within easy reach of Quetta and gave no trouble. The difficulty arose in connection with the collections further afield in the Province, whence it is impossible to send in to Quetta certain classes of zoological specimens without their going bad, unless previously cured. To meet this difficulty partly Mr. Cumming had asked the British Museum for 30 copies of each of four small pamphlets issued by them containing instructions for the curing of skins of birds, mammals, etc. These on receipt would be distributed among gentlemen living in places distant from Quetta. The authorities of the museum also induced natives in search of employment and willing to do so to come and learn how to skin and cure birds and mammals and what to do with reptiles, etc. On applications being made for the services of such men by officers proceeding on tour or on a shooting excursion these men were recommended for employment and when necessary a small allowance was paid to them by the Museum in addition to what they may receive from their employers. This, however, was a somewhat slow process and it was proposed to recommend to the Museum Committee that Political Agents be asked to send to the Museum one or two men from the Head Quarter stations of their districts, if not from every Tahsil, who could be taught by the Museum taxidermist just what is essentially necessary, and in turn teach others. Officers living away from the railway line in the remote part of the province could then employ these men in any capacity they like and if necessary the Museum might add a small allowance to men who prove useful in curing

specimens sent to it, or to fix a charge for specimens sent by them independently. Shikaris would, Mr. Cumming thought, form a suitable class of men to try this experiment on. Models and specimens of arts and manufacture of considerable value would have to be purchased by the Museum; but this did not come within the scope of the present discussion. Another plan which might be tried would be to invite private collectors to exchange or to bring to the Museum their collections for inspection, casts or descriptions and any particulars of interest being taken in the case of rare specimens.

It was very necessary that all specimens donated to a Museum should be acknowledged as soon as possible. This should be done even in cases where identification meant delay, exact information in regard to which might be promised and supplied later on.

II. Dr. Annandale referred to the importance not only of organizing the local collection of specimens of all kinds but also of correlating the results obtained. As regards zoology his remarks on the exchange of duplicates applied to the present debate also. No zoological survey of India was officially recognized in the sense that a geological, a botanical and an ethnographical survey were recognized. Nevertheless, the Indian Museum was doing a good deal, considering its limited resources, towards collecting material for such a survey and would welcome the assistance of provincial agencies. In the recent past, he was afraid, that the Museum, notwithstanding the energy and scientific knowledge of its former officers, had been unable to do much for the study of the land fauna of India. Thirty years ago there was a band of amateur zoologists in the country who made large collections and presented them to the Museum, but nowadays no one had much time for anything but his official and professional work, while sportsmen were inclined, naturally enough, to send their trophies to the British instead of the Indian Museum, the latter having given them little assistance. The Indian Museum had had until the last few months, no collector, and the officers of the Natural History Section had been mainly occupied with the study of deep-sea animals dredged by the Survey Ship "Investigator." Government had recently sanctioned the employment of a collector, however, and it was to be hoped that an increase in the trained staff of the Museum would be granted which would allow of more frequent work in the field. Collections made by a scientific man, even incidentally to his more strictly scientific researches, were generally more satisfactory than those made by a man without scientific training. An exact record of locality, date, altitude and even of meteorological conditions was of great importance as regards zoological specimens and the two of these data first mentioned should never be omitted. It was important also to supply collectors with suitable labels, which would differ considerably with the class of specimens to be collected. Labels suitable for record in the field were not in all cases identical with those best adapted for permanent record; but this was a subject which will be dealt with better in another debate.

III. The delegates from Bombay and Madras expressed an opinion that more help might be given by the Indian Museum in the training of taxidermists, collectors and assistants for provincial museums. Reference was also made to the beauty and life-like character of specimens set up in some of the American museums.

Dr. Annandale pointed out that a modern taxidermist of the first class must be something of an artist, as well as having a knowledge of the anatomy and of the habits and natural attitudes of animals. The salary of the head taxidermist in the Indian Museum was Rs. 85—3—100. To teach taxidermy of the kind referred to would need an exponent of the art from England or America and the Indian Museum could not afford to employ such a man.

IV. Mr. Burn (Bombay) suggested that possibly Government might grant scholarships to Indians willing to learn the art in England or America; but it was pointed out by Dr. Annandale that there was no such thing in England at any rate, as a school of taxidermy. He believed that most of the work in the British Museum was done by a private firm, who would probably demand a heavy premium from an apprentice. Mr. Burn said

that he did not wish to press his suggestion in view of the information supplied by *Dr. Annandale*. In any case he was of the opinion that a first class taxidermist should be employed in the Indian Museum both to work on behalf of that Museum and to give instructions to men from the Provincial Museums.

V. *Mr. Brown* (Punjab) was of the opinion that in this connection the matter of loan collections might be brought forward. With regard to the art and industrial art objects it was believed that valuable collections of pictures and artware were found in the houses of native princes, Chiefs and wealthy gentlemen which they would readily loan for longer or shorter periods to the Government Museums. In the Punjab it was proposed to issue a circular to ruling Chiefs and others asking them to kindly consider this scheme and to communicate with the Curator of the Lahore Museum if they have any unique art object suitable for display in the Art Department.

Dr. Annandale was of opinion that it was dangerous in India for a Museum to accept collections on loan. Such collections would be accepted not on their merits but on those of the persons who offered them. It would be difficult to get rid of them later and they would become a white elephant. As regards collections presented to Museums it was becoming a recognized principle that they should not be kept separate as a whole.

In the discussion that ensued with regard to a proposed limit to the length of time articles should be loaned to Museums it was pointed out that in the case of the South Kensington Museum and British Museum collections remained for years in the buildings and no objection to this had ever been brought forward. In the case of several valuable loan collections of pictures and pottery in the South Kensington Museum, to all intents and purposes these were the property of the museum authorities, but were nominated "loan collections" in order that the owner might claim them and have them returned if at any time he so desired.

VI. *Sardar Sahib Bhai Ram Singh* (Punjab) was of the opinion that in this connection it would do much good to the Indian arts and industries if efforts were made to ask the owners of unique and valuable artistic collections to lend their objects to the Museum of their province for display in the loan galleries where they would be appreciated by a larger community than a limited number of friends and acquaintances of the owners. Such collections would no doubt be liable to be returned to the owners at any time at their request.

In connection with this debate the following resolutions were passed unanimously:—

1. That taxidermists for the provincial museums should be trained in the Indian Museum, and that an expert taxidermist should be employed from Europe or America and attached to the staff of the Indian Museum, in order that he might both do the work of that institution and supervise the training of the provincial men.
2. That in order to assist the Indian Museum in its survey of the fauna of India, local museums shall give what assistance they can, and that the Superintendent of the Natural History Section shall be asked to draw up and circulate a statement of the special requirements of the Museum.
3. That in order to interest recognized authorities on Natural History, Archaeology and other subjects in the different provinces they shall be given a definite position on the staff of the Museums by their appointment as Honorary Officers.

Third subject—moved by *DR. ANNANDALE*,

"The publication of results."

I. *Dr. Annandale* in introducing this topic dwelt on the importance of concentration as regards the scientific publications on Indian subjects. Speaking generally, the greatest difficulty experienced by scientific workers

in India was the lack of scientific literature. This difficulty would be greatly reduced if it were possible to devote a single journal to each branch of science and to publish everything bearing on the subject in that journal. Of course it was impossible to prevent the publication of stray scientific papers in European and other journals and it would do far more harm than good to attempt to interfere with the scientific publications of private societies. It would, however, be a great step if it were possible to claim that all geological papers published officially in India were issued in the periodicals issued by the Geological Survey, all zoological ones in those published by the Indian Museum, and so on. Most of the scientific departments under the Government of India now issued their own publications, and others were following suit. There seemed also to be a tendency in these publications towards uniformity as regards arrangement and style, and this should also prove beneficial. It was impossible nowadays, however, for a scientific man to be a universal scientist and each branch of science was distinct from all others to a degree not generally realized. It was therefore better to keep the separate branches separate as regards publications, in order on the one hand to ensure that the periodical or periodicals dealing with them were under the immediate control in each case of those who were acquainted with the particular branch of science concerned, and on the other hand to prevent any one periodical becoming unwieldy.

II. *Mr. Holland* agreed for the support of journals devoted to groups of closely related subjects, and pointed out the difficulty of subdividing too freely in this country, where there is a limited number of original workers. Generally, the balance of advantage is in favour of extending the range of questions covered by a journal rather than splitting it into "series," which give so much trouble to the librarian and to the student, whose mechanical work of quoting previous literature is now becoming dangerously burdened by the intricate systems of publishing in "series" and "parts." If each volume of a journal be fully indexed, and if the papers be made sufficiently short to allow their titles to be expressive of their contents, there was very little disadvantage in having, for instance, Palæontological papers alongside papers on Mineralogy and Petrology in the same journal in India. Although the workers in India were sufficiently numerous to support separate journals for Geology, Zoology, Botany, and some other branches of science, we would possibly not be able to support local journals for each. The question as to whether it would be best to support a local journal covering all branches of Natural History, or a central journal devoted to a well recognized, distinct branch, must give rise to differences of opinion; but for the publication of the results of original value it was obviously best to support the central special journal rather than the local one covering many objects. However, one could not lay down laws that would destroy the individuality of established publications, or interfere with the natural development of new journals that were of value even if they were the outlet of a local and temporary wave of scientific enthusiasm.

With regard to the *form* and *size* of a publication, uniformity could be advocated with less danger of destroying individuality. The serious student, who had to use and quote scientific literature, should be considered before the varying tastes of the printer and publisher. In most subjects it is generally most practicable to have two "series"—one containing the short papers and notes of interest that may be developed during a long investigation, and the other including monographs and memoirs of a size large enough to swamp the average "part" of the smaller journal, and comprehensive enough to give a general survey of the subject treated. By the Geological Survey the term "Records" was applied to the former journal, while the larger papers were published in a separate series of "Memoirs." For the student who has to quote literature, it was important in all publications to show at the top of each pair of pages—

- (a) the title or recognized abbreviation of the journal,
- (b) the number of the volume and year of publication,
- (c) the author's name and short title of the paper.

Mistakes in quoting the volume or year of the publication were liable to occur if the student has to rely on the title-page of the volume, as errors in binding were so common. In any case the verification of these details incurred a loss of time, especially when two volumes were bound together, as was the custom for small publications in some libraries in India.

It was desirable also that a very full index should be issued with each volume, and possibly an amalgamated index with each ten volumes. With a full index the drawbacks of issuing papers on various subjects in the same journal would be greatly diminished.

With regard to the size of the two classes of publications, it was generally found best to issue papers of the "Records" type as octavo journals and "Memoirs" as quarto publications. An attempt had been made some years ago to standardise the octavo scientific journals by keeping to the size adopted for the *Reports of the British Association*, the *Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society* and the *Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers*. For many years the *Proceedings of the Royal Society* were issued in this size; but it had been found desirable in the last named instance to adopt the super royal octavo size, and this size had been maintained from the beginning for the *Records of the Geological Survey of India*. The quarto size was adopted for most series of memoirs because of the facilities they offered for the large unfolded plates that were necessary especially in Natural History, as it was obviously desirable when practicable to figure type-specimens natural size. The *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society* had been copied in size and style by many societies, and generally they offered the best all-round conveniences for publications of the memoir and monograph type. It is to be regretted that this size was not adopted for the *Memoirs of the Geological Survey of India*, instead of the super royal octavo for ordinary and the large quarto for Palæontological memoirs. It was proposed when Vol. XL of the *Memoirs* was reached to adopt the size and style of the *Philosophical Transactions* for both kinds of memoirs in one amalgamated series.

Recently the Trustees of the Indian Museum had adopted the term *Records of the Indian Museum* for their short papers on Natural History, and for the Forest Department Government have sanctioned the inauguration of a similar publication. In both these cases quarto *Memoirs* are published to supplement the *Records*.

It was an advantage to most serious readers to have a list of the papers previously published in the series attached to each "part" of the *Records* and *Memoirs*. The "part" is thus necessarily issued in paper covers and, as the list could be kept in type and brought up to date with each new "part" published the system involved very little cost or labour, while it might be of inestimable value to many readers. The list of papers published by the Geological Survey occupied 18 pages of the paper-covers issued with each part of the *Records* and *Memoirs*.

The list was now becoming dangerously bulky but it seemed unwise to abolish it in view of the great value it has been to students.

III. With regard to the Art Department of Museums it was pointed out by Mr. Brown (Punjab) that up to the present no steps had been taken to produce any publication devoted to this subject which in any way corresponded with the journals or records relating to Geology, Zoology, etc. Efforts should be made to bring publications on this subject into line with the other branches of Museum work. It was remarked that there was a certain amount of literature published from time to time on Art and Industry, notably the Technical Art Series, the Journal of Indian Art, and the Industrial Monographs, but it was felt that there were drawbacks to the utility of these books which it might be found desirable to remove.

These were, (a) the want of completeness in dealing with each subject; (b) a considerable degree of overlapping, due to the independent manner of their issue, and (c) the fact that no single art is dealt with in a comprehensive manner.

In the discussion that followed these remarks it was suggested that in place of these books a periodical should be produced which would deal with each art subject exhaustively in turn and so ultimately build up a series of records which would together form a complete survey of the Arts and Industries of India, and it was proposed that a sub-committee be formed to consider this subject and to formulate a scheme which would enable the above suggestion to be put into effect.

IV. Sardar Sahib Bhai Ram Singh was of the opinion that journals might be published half yearly on various topics of Art and supplied regularly to all the Museums. One of the Curators of the Museums might be elected as an editor to whom articles might be contributed by other curators for insertion in the journals. In his opinion the Indian Museum would quite suit the purpose.

The question of the Art publications was submitted to a sub-committee consisting of the following delegates:—

I. H. Burkill, Esqr.
E. Thurston, Esqr.
Percy Brown, Esqr.
C. L. Burns, Esqr.
Dr. A. Mitra.

The Sub-Committee reported as follows and their report was adopted by the Conference unanimously:—

The Sub-Committee consider it desirable that the publications on Art—Pure and Industrial—made in India should be unified. The publication should take the form of a serial edited and conducted in a way similar to the *Memoirs* of the Geological Survey, Zoological, Botanical and Archaeological departments.

The Provincial monographs on Industrial Arts and the Technical Art series published by the Survey of India should be absorbed. From the serial extra plates might be easily struck off for the use of Schools of Arts and for other purposes.

The Committee believe that the present system, by which the Provincial Governments are asked to write monographs on specified subjects, cannot much longer continue, because the subjects common to most of the provinces have now been exhausted, and further the Committee believe that the Technical Art series find a far more extensive sale among European visitors to India than among the class for whom it was intended. The class to which these visitors belong would be more easily reached by a serial than they are by the present publication, while the artisans should be reached by pattern books through the Schools of Art. The serial would form the basis from which the designs of the pattern books should be taken.

The following resolutions were passed as regards the publications of scientific results, in each case unanimously:—

1. That the "Records" and "Memoirs" of the Geological Survey shall be the recognized official medium for the publication of scientific geological work in India, the "Records" and "Memoirs" of the Indian Museum for that of zoology, and the publications of the Botanical Survey for that of botanical work, the "Records" in each case being devoted to shorter papers and notes, and the "Memoirs" to more detailed monographs.
2. That in every case the size of the "Records" shall be super royal octavo (11½" × 7").
3. That in the "Records" each paper shall commence on a separate page.

Fourth subject—moved by MR. I. H. BURKILL,
"Disposal of type specimens and registration of new specimens."

I. Mr. Burkill opened the discussion by explaining the meaning among scientists of the word "type specimen" as a specimen used for an original

scientific description, and by means of which alone the accuracy of that description must in future be tested. He pointed out the importance of preserving these specimens as references for (as nearly as possible) all time. Science needed that they should be both carefully preserved and accessibly preserved. Nothing had yet been done among scientists by common consent towards gathering types together into central institutions, that they may be preserved well in both ways; but it was very reasonable to enquire what could be done; and possibly in India biologists were in a far better position to achieve something than they were in many countries. Mr. Burkill in illustration proceeded to state that all types of plants which fell into his hands were not preserved by him in his own section of the Indian Museum but were made over to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Calcutta, which he regarded as the appropriate depository for them—it being the chief centre of work on descriptive Indian botany. The convenience of the greater number of workers, and therefore the greater advancement of science, was secured by transferring them.

Similar principles might guide one in the disposal of all type specimens.

Regarding the registration of type specimens, the general rules of registration of the institute where they lie should apply.

Regarding registration in general, though there were Museums where the quantity of specimens received render registration by numbers impossible, *e.g.*, herbaria, there were more Museums where registration by number is desirable. If registration by number was impossible, something about the label should exist by which a particular specimen could be recognised, *e.g.*, if it becomes a type, the word "type" should be written on the label as is done at Kew. He suggested that, for the purpose of the Conference perhaps, these exceptional cases might be neglected. Registration of specimens should never be by any complicated method: one serial running number should alone be used for the objects to be registered, and the specimens and its number should never be separated: there should not be sub-numbers. The first act on the receipt of a specimen was its registration. In the Industrial Section of the Indian Museum, three registers were kept: one, now with running numbers from 1 to 10,469, recorded all the receipts for the Ethnological Gallery, a second with running numbers from 1 to 12,862 recorded all the receipts for the Art Gallery, and the third with running numbers from 1 to 28,170 recorded all the receipts for the Economic Gallery whether shown in it or reserved with the possibility of being shown in it. No specimen was unpacked from the package in which it came without at once receiving a label bearing its number or having the number painted on it; and the label or number always remained on the specimen, the label being often wired to the object if Artware or something Ethnological, or attached in suitable ways if Economic.

Correspondence about each specimen bore the number of the specimen also, and could be sought out without any doubt.

II. Mr. Holland dwelt on the importance of "types," and argued that, in order to prevent the possibility of different Curators exercising their own views as to the importance of such specimens, types should be stored in a Museum governed, if possible, by a representative body of Trustees, or at any rate, regulated by rules that could not be broken to suit the idiosyncrasy of each Curator who might be "acting" in charge. In India, practically all the types that had been established in Natural History subjects were stored in Calcutta—botanical specimens at Sibpur, zoological and geological specimens in the Calcutta Museum. An effort should be made, when the staff permitted it, to publish a list of the types available, in order that outside naturalists might know where they can be consulted. The collections of fossil-types preserved in the Geological Survey office were separately numbered and registered, being kept apart from the rest of the Museum specimens. The register showed the names of the species, locality, geological formation, author of the species and references to the description and published figures.

Mr. Holland also recommended very strongly that all specimens received at any Museum should be registered immediately on receipt, and special registers should be kept for the purpose. Such registers should only re-

cognise a classification that could be carried out accurately by a clerk without a special knowledge of any branch of science; for instance, anyone would ordinarily be able to divide the materials received into plants, animals, rocks and minerals, fossils, archaeological specimens, coins, pictures and objects of industrial art. It would be unwise to arrange for any more precise classification in the preliminary register.

It was very common in most of the Museums in the world to come across quantities of material about which the history was doubtful, and most of such cases were due to the fact that some time during the history of the Museum the specimens and their labels had become confused. If immediately on the receipt of a specimen it were given a registered number, and that number were marked on it indelibly (either painted on or attached in the form of a metal label), the full details obtained up to the time and entered into the register might at any later date become of priceless value to the original worker. Nothing was so annoying to the worker as to have a doubt about the origin and history of the specimen which proved to be of scientific interest. It was better to be on the safe side and to record full details regarding specimens that might turn out to be unimportant than to run the risk of finding many years later that a specimen of scientific value could not be turned to account because of some flaw or gap in its history.

The registration of new specimens on receipt should not be undertaken by a scientific officer. He was far too inclined to subdivide the materials and classify them, and he was also inclined to be guided by his ideas as to what might be important and what might be useless. It was far better that the preliminary registration should be done by a simple clerk, in order that every known detail might be recorded. For this reason the speaker advocated the simple classification into the large groups referred to above, as this was possible for anyone with the most superficial education.

III. Dr. Annandale stated that although he was naturally in favour of making the collections in the Indian Museum as complete as possible in respect to the fauna of India, he was of the opinion that it was impossible, in the climate of Calcutta, to prevent degeneration in specimens of certain groups of insects, especially butterflies and moths, and that it was more important that a "type" should be kept safe and be accessible for study than that it should be kept in Calcutta. He would therefore recommend that in the case of such specimens as it was impossible to preserve safely in Calcutta the type should be sent to the British Museum in London. He believed, however, that it would ultimately benefit everyone concerned if Indian types were as a preliminary sent to the central museum of the Indian Empire, in which the great majority of them could be preserved safely and permanently.

IV. Sardar Sahib Bhai Ram Singh (Punjab) was of the opinion that type specimens should be disposed of according to the instructions as regards coins issued by the Government of India recently, and that their registration in the catalogues distributed for the information of workers would be very useful and important. The registration of new specimens was decidedly most essential. Registers maintained for this purpose should be uniform in all the Museums of India.

In connection with this debate the following resolutions were passed unanimously:—

1. That all zoological "types" in India shall be deposited in the Indian Museum, but that the Superintendent of the Natural History Section shall be empowered, with the consent of the Trustees, to transfer to the British Museum (Natural History) such entomological "types" as may be, in his opinion, in danger of destruction owing to the climate.
2. That all Palæontological "types" shall be placed in charge of the Director of the Geological Survey, and all Botanical "types" in that of the Director of the Botanical Survey.
3. That in each case either a duplicate, a drawing or a photograph of the type shall be sent to the institution from which the original specimen was obtained, and that the "type" itself may be lent for scientific examination to this or other institutions if it can be sent with safety.

4. That it would be useful that lists of types should be published periodically.
5. That all specimens received at any Museum shall be entered in a general register as expeditiously as possible and that the register shall be divided into volumes representing the main sections of the collection in such a way that the ordinary clerk can appreciate the differences between these sections at sight and with no possibility of confusion. The following eight headings were approved as being suitable for the collections of a provincial museum :—
 1. Archæology and Epigraphy.
 2. Coins and Medals.
 3. Art and Ethnology.
 4. Economic Products.
 5. Geology.
 6. Plants.
 7. Animals.
 8. Books, Maps and Manuscripts.

Fifth subject—moved by MR. T. H. HOLLAND,

"Classification of public exhibits and reference collections."

I. Mr. Holland explained in opening the discussion on this question that it was placed on the list of agenda of the Conference in consequence of the bearing it had on the reorganization of the Indian Museum now being considered by Government. In the institution known to the public as the Indian Museum, there were, in fact, two independent organizations :—

- (i) the geological collections, which were part of the property of the Geological Survey and administrated by the Director, who was responsible directly to the Government of India;
- (ii) the exhibits relating to industrial art, archæology, economic products, zoology and ethnography, which were administrated by a body of 21 Trustees constituted into a Board by a special Act in Council, which gave the Trustees powers somewhat similar to those of a Local Government.

The question had recently been raised as to whether the various subjects under the administration of the Trustees could not be conveniently divided into natural units, such as (a) zoology and ethnography, (b) art, (c) archæology and (d) economic products, and whether, as regards purely technical and scientific questions internally, the Superintendents of these sections should not be given the power now possessed by the head of the geological section. At present the part of the Museum under the administration of the Trustees was divided into two sections, the Superintendent of the Natural History Section having charge of the archæological exhibits as well as the zoological collections, while the Superintendent of the Industrial Section has charge of ethnography, industrial art and economic products. It was obvious that the grouping together of subjects so utterly unrelated as archæology and zoology could not tend to efficiency, and it was obvious that, if financially possible, such unrelated collections should be managed by separate officers. Most people would concur on this last point, *viz.*, that separate specialists should be in executive charge of distinct subjects, whenever a Museum is large enough to command the full services of specialists for each natural subdivision. It was, of course, necessary in small Museums, for financial reasons alone, to group together several subjects under one officer; and as far as India is concerned, most of the Provincial Museums could not afford to pay for more than one superior officer for the whole Museum; but the Calcutta Museum was now too large and too important to be treated in this way. The Provincial Museums had as their main object the education of the public, and an attractive display of natural objects must be their chief aim. In the Indian Museum, however, there had now been accumulated an enormous mass of material suitable for reference purposes, and the collections had become so large that no original worker in palæontology or zoology could afford to neglect their value. Thus the leading function of the Indian Museum should be its use as an instrument for serious scientific research. Its popular side should not be neglected, but, in administration, we should

regard, first of all, the scientific efficiency of its officers rather than their ability to make popular displays. This being admitted, many would argue that it would be unwise to place the Museum under a single Director who would have control of the zoologists, the archæologists and the geological officers. If such a Director had no special or scientific qualifications, he would not be fit to criticise the scientific work of any one section. If, on the other hand, he were a zoologist, no matter how distinguished, he would not be fit to control the research work in the archæological section; or, if he were a geologist, he would have no right to interfere with the purely scientific problems of the zoological section.

Admitting, therefore, that scientific work and research form the chief object of the Indian Museum, it seemed advisable to give each specialist a free hand so far as his own particular collections were concerned; and with this aim in view, proposals had now been made before the Government for dividing the Indian Museum into the following sections :—

- (a) Art.
- (b) Archæology.
- (c) Geology.
- (d) Zoology and Anthropology.
- (e) Economic Products.

All these sections except zoology and ethnography could be linked to existing Departments of Government, and it was proposed that such departments already concerned with the scientific aspects of the questions should be responsible for the internal administration of the corresponding sections of the Museum. Zoology and Anthropology would be under a separate Superintendent responsible directly to the Board of Trustees, whose other functions regarding the Museum would be purely advisory. The Trustees would not attempt to interfere with purely scientific matters in any section, but they would be the guardians of the public: it would be their duty to see that the public exhibits were suitably displayed, that the rules for the admission of visitors and their control were properly carried out, and that the buildings and compound were kept in decent order.

This new organization would be applied to the various collections grouped together in one set of buildings such as we have for the Calcutta Museum, or it could be applied to separate Museums, if, in future, it be found impossible to accommodate in the space now available the full grown collections.

Generally it was convenient to have the Museums either in one building or in a series of buildings near one another; but personally the speaker did not consider it important that all subjects should be exhibited in the same Museum. The visitor to a Museum, with serious intentions to study, could not take an intelligent interest in more than one or two questions: if he was a zoologist, it was not likely that it would be greatly to his advantage to find a number of archæological exhibits in the same building; conversely, if he was an archæologist, he would not care whether the minerals and fossils were in the same part of Calcutta or were exhibited elsewhere. However, there was a large number of uneducated public who wanted to see as much as they could of things curious, and although, possibly, the satisfaction of their feelings of curiosity could not be regarded as education, they had a right to be considered, and possibly a right to expect as many subjects as possible concentrated in a convenient set of accessible buildings. The sub-division into natural units, and the independence of the units, as far as internal scientific questions were concerned, were points in Museum organization that were seldom exemplified in the larger Museums of Europe; but it should be remembered that most of the large Museums in the world had grown gradually to their present dimensions by the accretion of legacies and bequests that were generally tied up with special conditions. The vested interests in these old institutions were so strong that it was now impossible to break loose from the administration under which they had gradually grown, in order to adopt a more scientific and more natural subdivision of functions. In Calcutta, to a certain extent, the Museum was also tied up by the linking

together of different institutions, but most of these were at the disposal of Government and it was consequently comparatively easy by a modification of the Act in Council to effect a reform for the purposes of adopting a more scientific classification in administration.

Luckily those concerned were not compelled to take this new step on purely theoretical considerations; the geological section had been independent of the rest of the Museum from the beginning; the Trustees had not even advisory powers with regard to it; yet no visitor would notice, on passing from the invertebrate gallery to the mineralogical gallery, or from the archaeological wing across the hall into the Siwalik gallery, that he was entering a totally different institution. As regards the display of material for the public, as regards the hours of attendance, as regards the uniform of the attendants, the two institutions had adopted similar regulations, and so far as the public were concerned, the two were one; yet the Trustees had no right to enter the geological galleries except as members of the public. They had no control over the classification of rocks, minerals and fossils, and had no say in the purely scientific problems involved; but no one can say that the geological section had been less successful either from the scientific or the public point of view than any other section of the Museum. What had been found to be practicable and successful in connection with geology should be possible also if zoology were divorced from archaeology or if art were separated from botanical products of economic value. They were therefore not adopting a radical change without a successful experiment to guide them.

Now that the system of grouping and administration of the chief sections of the compound museums had been considered, the next point to consider was the internal classification that might be adopted in a group. In a small museum, with a limited number of specimens, it was found possible to adopt one classification only. In a large Museum with numbers of duplicates available, two or more classifications might be possible to express the different aspects for the same subject; for example, it might be convenient in a Provincial Museum to exhibit geological specimens by districts only instead of according to recognized scientific classification of geological materials. With duplicates available it would be possible to display two series—one according to the subject classification and another according to the geographical classification. The same question arose with regard to ethnography. We could group together all the different kinds of weapons to form one collection, the different kinds of musical instruments to form another, the various sorts of dresses and personal ornaments to form the third, thus permitting of a comparison of the dresses of the different tribes, of the musical instruments, or of the weapons they use. In so far as such a classification would express the evolution of the articles represented, it would be one of scientific value. On the other hand, the ordinary visitor of the Museum and the new comer to the country would be generally more interested in a particular tribe or in a limited number of tribes. He would thus prefer to see representative models of the tribes surrounded by the materials they make use of—their dresses, their weapons, their fishing nets, musical instruments, and, in fact, all the materials that show the nature of their life. This classification was utterly different to the first, but it might be convenient, if sufficient materials were available, to have both forms of classification in the same Museum.

It was not possible to lay down a law suitable for all types of Museums. The classification to be adopted must depend entirely upon the nature of the material available. In the case of the Geological Museum in Calcutta, where abundance of material was available, two classifications were adopted for each subdivision of Geology; for instance, the minerals were arranged in one series of cases according to a recognized scientific grouping, while in another set of cases they were displayed in accordance with their economic uses. In the first series would be found the oxides of iron associated with the oxides of alumina, chrome and manganese, and the carbonate of iron would be associated with the carbonates of lime, baryta and magnesia, while the sulphides of iron would be associated with those of copper, lead, zinc,

silver, etc. In the economic series, on the other hand, would be found together the oxides of iron associated with the carbonates, forming a series of minerals suitable as sources for the manufacture of the metal. So, also, would be found together the carbonate, sulphide and oxide of copper as materials which could be developed for the economic production of copper. At the same time, in the economic series, the minerals might occur in more than one place; for instance, while some forms of hematite, *i.e.*, oxide of iron, were suitable as pigments, they would be found associated with substances like barytes, zinc-white, white lead, graphite and other substances also used as pigments, while duplicate specimens would be found with the ores of iron suitable for smelting the metal. In the case of fossils, one series was arranged zoologically; the cephalopods of all ages would be found in one group of cases separated from the gastropods. In another series, the fossils were arranged in accordance with their geological age, and we would thus find the cephalopods and gastropods of the same geological period grouped together. Rock specimens were similarly arranged according to their stratigraphical classification, and according to their lithological nature, into two distinct series. The ideal Museum would give expression in its collections to every aspect of the subject concerned; but the ideal could not be approached when financial limitations only permitted of the formation of an imperfect collection. Thus, we might be limited, as in most Provincial Museums, to the display only of one aspect of a subject, while in the Calcutta Museum we were generally limited to two, and it could not be regarded as unsatisfactory if the two principal aspects of any one subject were suitably and fully displayed in the Museum.

II. *Mr. Brown* (Punjab) said that collections should be classified into a number of broad divisions so that on the arrival of any particular article in a Museum it would be possible for a subordinate to refer it correctly to the broadly defined class to which it belonged; its ultimate exact location being afterwards decided upon by the expert officer in charge of that particular class.

In the Lahore Museum the various departments were at present in the process of classification, the classes now completed being—

1. Industrial Arts.
2. Fine Arts.
3. Archaeology and Antiquities.
4. Coins.

The other departments of the Museum were under arrangement and it was proposed to classify these according to the methods adopted by the Indian Museum.

With regard to the four classes enumerated above these had been subdivided as below:—

1. Industrial Arts.
 - (a) Hardware manufactures.
 - (b) Textiles.
2. Fine Arts.
 - (a) Pictures, Photographs and Engravings.
 - (b) Sculpture and Statuary.
3. Archaeology and Antiquities.
 - (a) Sculpture (Græco-Buddhist, Brahmanical, Jain, Muhamadan, etc.).
 - (b) Inscriptions.
 - (c) Prehistoric Implements.
 - (d) Miscellaneous including antique jewellery, seals, etc.
4. Coins.
 - (a) Ancient Coins (Græco-Bactrian, etc.).
 - (b) Muhamadan.
 - (c) Miscellaneous.

III. *Mr. Ibrahim Rahimtoola* (Bombay) dwelt on the fact that few or no local Museums in India would be able to afford the expenses of putting different sections of their collections under different experts. He agreed, however, that the proposals made as regards the Indian Museum would prove beneficial in the case of a central institution with relatively large funds at its disposal.

IV. *Sardar Sahib Bhai Ram Singh* said that collections must be divided into various classes. There should be a certain number of main heads, which should be classified into sub-heads. Every effort should be made to exhibit the collections of a museum in their proper sub-heads. This would facilitate the control as well as the location of exhibits.

The following resolution arising from the discussion was put to the meeting and passed unanimously:—

That the Conference expressed their approval of the scheme for splitting the Indian Museum into sections as proposed by the Trustees and were of the opinion that the principles involved were the best so far as the central museum for India was concerned.

Sixth subject—moved by *Mr. I. H. BURKILL*,

"Preservation of specimens and labels specially suitable to the climate."

I. In introducing the sixth subject, *Mr. Burkill* laid on the table examples of the labels used in his section of the Indian Museum. The important labels, *viz.*, those referred to under the fourth topic, were not those intended for the use of the public but were kept at the back of the specimens: those for the public were as small as was compatible with legibility and were renewed at frequent intervals. For the purpose of renewal they were printed by the fifty at a time. Two examples are given here:—

Caryota urens, THE SAGO PALM Vern.—<i>Mari</i> (HIND.); <i>Birli-mhad, birli mhar</i> (BOM.); <i>Onda-panna, erimpanna</i> (TAM.). Dictionary, C. 711. Reg. No. _____ Museum Cabinet No. 205.	Section No. MASULIPATAM.
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The work of renewal of the labels was done by a duftry under the supervision of a clerk and the perpetual original number was always on the object or on a label behind the object as a reference for the avoidance of mistakes.

For the preservation of temporary labels, therefore, no particular care was taken. All—both perpetual and temporary or show labels—went discoloured in the strong Indian light in a very short time; but the show labels were frequently renewed.

For the preservation of the specimens in the Industrial Section of the Indian Museum great care was taken. Spirit, naphthaline, creosote, corrosive sublimate, carbolic acid and kerosine were all used. Spirit was used in the usual way for the preservation by immersion of fruits, etc. Naphthaline was put into every show case—a dozen pieces—the size of a marble, being for the purpose tied up in a bit of muslin; and several such bundles being put into each case: it was put also into every index tin, where unfortunately it at times caused a little trouble by subliming on to the glass front of the tin. Creosote was washed annually over the backs of all large pieces of timber where they were in contact with walls and were allowed to soak in; it was not used for other purposes. Corrosive sublimate was used for all dried seeds, leaves, bamboos and softer parts of vegetable origin. It was made up in a concentrated solution in spirit and poured over the material to be poisoned, or washed over it with a brush, and allowed to dry so that they get a thin coating of it. Next to naphthaline it is the most used preservative.

Carbolic acid was put into all glue used. Kerosine was used for the impregnation of card board boxes and books that book-worms had begun to attack.

There were many enemies to guard against:—mice which were best kept down by trapping, fish insects which at present did little harm to other things than paper, the bamboo shot borer which get into articles both in the Economic and the Ethnologic courts, the longicorn beetles which attacked timbers, white ants, grain-weevils, book-weevils, grain-moths, etc. *Mr. Burkill* explained that, with the assistance of these poisons and preservatives, he relied firstly however upon cleanliness, frequent dusting and as far as possible the avoidance of dark corners.

ERRATUM.

Page 21, 10th line from top. For "cottonwool saturated" read "zoological specimens."

(v) dry specimens and (vi) specimens preserved in liquid. The most important of the former were dried insects and skins of birds and mammals.

As regards insects he would recommend the use of silver pins and that all boxes or cases should be provided with a receptacle for a sponge or piece of cottonwool saturated with carbolic or creosote. Camphor might also be used, but he was doubtful as to the practical utility of naphthaline in insect boxes. He was against the use of cards in pinning delicate insects, but would recommend small slabs of cork or pith, which had the advantage over cork of being very easily obtained in India. The slabs should be large enough to protect the legs, wings and antennæ of the insects pinned on them and should be oblong, not round. The use of card disks, although it was recommended by the British Museum, was a mistake when there was any chance of the specimens having to travel. The pin, too, except in very delicate insects, should be inserted from above, not from below. Very minute specimens were best pinned sideways from below. Insects should also be protected, so far as possible, from light; but he was doubtful whether it was possible in India to prevent butterflies and moths from fading, even if every precaution was taken.

As regards mammals and birds, they should always be preserved in the first instance as skins, unless they were wanted for purposes of anatomical research. The instructions given in the British Museum, hand-books might be followed as regards the preparation of skins. As regards the preservation of stuffed animals in the public galleries of an Indian Museum, he would recommend the course followed in Calcutta. The cases at present in use were unsuitable for any climate. Still, one had to make the best of them, and museum cases were extremely expensive if made properly. Even with the bad cases, however, which were all the Indian Museum could afford, it was possible to keep the stuffed animals in a fairly good state of preservation for a considerable number of years. Sulphur was burnt in the cases periodically and the mammals were rubbed over with clove oil. Saucers of unslaked lime, to absorb moisture, were placed in them, and of naphthaline. The latter substance probably kept out the larger and more delicate insects such as cockroaches and "fish insects" (Thysanura), but it was useless against mould or other microscopic pests and probably also against noxious beetles.

As regards specimens preserved in liquid, he found strong alcohol the only satisfactory medium as a permanent preservative. Softer animals, such as fish, frogs and most marine invertebrates, except crustacea and echinoderms, were benefited by a preliminary hardening in a solution of formaline. This drug, however, sooner or later destroyed any tissue containing salts of lime and had proved unsatisfactory, owing to the evaporation of its essential constituent, as a permanent preservative in the climate of Calcutta, even for the softest organisms. Soft specimens should be put in formaline for one week and then transferred to spirit; but if they were very delicate they might first be transferred to a very weak mixture of alcohol and water, then into a stronger one, and finally into one containing not less than ninety per cent. of alcohol. Sponges should always be preserved in the strongest alcohol available. A great danger in Calcutta was the absorption of water vapour by the alcohol, and it was necessary to be continually renewing and redistilling the alcohol, even when the best stoppered bottles were used. A mixture of country soap, boxes-wax and cocoanut oil was

always placed round the stoppers of bottles in the Indian Museum, but this did not prevent the alcohol from becoming gradually weaker.

As regards labels, the only ones he found really satisfactory for exhibition purposes were painted by hand on wooden boards. It was necessary that the wood should be well seasoned. It was then covered with black enamel and the legend was painted on it by a markman, who was employed for the purpose. The rule now was in the Indian Museum that labels for animals occurring in the Indian Empire were painted in white, and for those that did not occur within its limits in red. As regards field labels, the instructions given in the British Museum hand-book might be followed.

III. *Mr. Thurston* (Madras) observed that, though naphthaline was largely used as a preservative in the Indian Museum and Madras Museum, nothing was really known as to its efficacy, which was accepted very much on trust. He suggested that a systematic series of experiments should be carried out, with a view to ascertaining how far it is efficacious in preventing the ravages of insects and other museum pests on labels, animals, textile fabrics, etc.

IV. *Mr. Brown* (Punjab) said that the principal enemies that the Lahore Museum had to contend with were white ants and dust. With regard to the former all wood not under direct observation, such as the backs of cases, etc., was coated freely with coal tar. The dust of the Punjab was, however, a very serious and ever present difficulty and could only be prevented by means of air-tight and dust-proof cases.

V. *Sardar Sahib Bhai Ram Singh* (Lahore) thought that every precaution should be taken by the curators and their staff to protect the collection from dust, white ants, and other noxious worms and insects. In the Lahore Museum an excellent arrangement was made for this purpose. Air-tight glass fixture cases glazed with glass plates were provided in the sculpture gallery. The backs of these cases were well coated with coal tar and about one inch of room was provided between the wall and the back of the cases. This was always filled in with sawdust mixed with tar, through which kerosine oil was poured whenever there was any danger from white ants. To furnish other Museums with such like cases would most certainly protect the collection to a great extent. Naphthaline should also be kept in cases. Labels might be printed with particulars of the objects and on paper and covered with glass as in the Indian Museum. This system was suitable to all climates. In the Lahore Museum labels were printed on black japanned wooden plates.

VI. *Dr. Mitra* (Kashmir) called attention to the use of the root of *Saussurea Lappa* ("Kut") as an excellent preservation of woollen fabrics, furs, and feathers. It was largely used in Kashmir and he had found it as good as naphthaline if not better in some respects.

In regard to this subject the following resolution was proposed and passed unanimously:—

1. *Dr. Annandale* and *Mr. Burkill* were requested to incorporate their remarks on the subject of the preservation of specimens in a note and to circulate them to the different Museums. They were also requested to conduct systematic experiments on the effect of naphthaline in preserving specimens of different kinds from the attack of insects.

Seventh subject—moved by *MR. E. THURSTON*,

"Recognized special functions of particular Provincial Museums."

It was agreed on the proposal of the Chairman that for the purpose of discussion the term "provincial museum" should be held to include a Presidency and State Museum.

I. *Mr. Thurston* (Madras) in opening the discussion said that, in his first annual administration report of the Madras Government Museum, after he took over charge of it in 1885, he made the following remarks: "It is wholly beyond the power or scope of a Presidential Museum to rival the great

national museums in the possession of representative collections from different quarters of the globe, and I have determined to devote my entire attention to the natural history, arts, ethnology, manufactures and raw products of Southern India, accepting only such specimens from other regions as may be sent as donations from time to time, and keeping them entirely apart from the main collections. The necessity of such a course is best illustrated by reference to the geological collection, which, while abounding in a chaos of purchased and exchanged specimens of European fossils, is markedly deficient in specimens from the rich fossiliferous beds of the Cretaceous system of Southern India." He had nothing to add to, or take from this. The policy laid down had been steadily followed, with some measure of success. *Sir William Flower*, formerly Director of the British Museum (Natural History), once observed that "a museum depends for its success, not on its building, not on its cases, and not on its exhibits, but on its Curator." The provincial museums could not expect to be provided, like the Indian Museum, Calcutta, with a body of specialists in Zoology, Geology, Economic Products, etc., and it was, therefore, essential that their Curators should be men possessed of wide sympathies, and capable of undertaking, to the best of their abilities, the working of various departments, in such a manner that one was not developed at the expense of the others. At Madras, *Mr. Thurston* had been responsible for the appointment, in recent years, of specialists as Honorary Assistants to the Superintendent in the Natural History and Archæological sections. He strongly recommended the Curators of other Provincial Museums to adopt the same course, as they would in this way receive assistance from men who would be willing to give much valuable help, if they felt that they had a definite position on the staff.

II. *Dr. Kanga* (Baroda) stated that a museum should not confine itself to the arts and industries of the particular place but should have a collection of typical specimens of all sorts of arts and industries from all countries, specimens of fine and applied art which could be advantageously imitated by Indian artists and craftsmen.

III. With regard to several important departments of a Provincial Museum, *Mr. Brown* (Punjab) thought that to display only local examples was a mistake, particularly in the departments of Industrial Art. In the case of any local art, as for example enamelling, he found it extremely useful to exhibit, along with a comprehensive collection of local examples, specimens from other parts of India, and even to go further afield and display types from Europe and Japan. The object of this was obvious; the visitor, aware of this local art and wishing to study it, would see in which way it resembled or was different from types produced from other centres where this particular industry was carried on; in the same way the workman in the art of enamelling might not only see specimens of work of his own province but might learn something from the methods employed by his brothers in the craft in other parts of India and abroad. Referring to the collection of antiquities, attention might be drawn to the policy of the Archæological Department regarding inscribed stones, etc., displayed in a Museum but evidently originating from some district outside the Provincial area of that Museum. In cases of this kind the Archæological Department requested that the specimen might be transferred to the museum nearest to its place of origin, and arrangements were always made for this to be carried out. In this connection it might be mentioned that the Municipal Museum at Delhi had been closed, and an historical Museum opened at Delhi Fort by the Archæological Department, in which had been placed objects of local historical interest taken from the discontinued Municipal collection. Application had also been made to Lahore for an object of local historical interest now displayed in the Lahore Museum to be transferred to the Delhi Fort. Further, at the request of the Archæological Department, inscribed stones had been sent from the Lahore Museum to Lucknow and also to Muttra, as it was pointed out at the time that these particular specimens had direct reference to those places but no connection with the province in

which they were then displayed. The policy was on general principles, a most commendable one, but the extent to which it should be actually put into effect might be a matter of consideration for the Conference.

This subject had some bearing on the number of Museums that it might be considered advisable to maintain in various parts of the country. Generally speaking, there should be one and not more than one in each Presidency, Province or State. Exceptions to this rule might be desirable in the case of small historical or archaeological museums in special localities as put into effect at Delhi and Muttra by the Archaeological Department. It might also be found useful occasionally to establish small trades or industrial art museums in towns where specially important manufactures were carried on, but it might be mentioned that these as a rule did not effect their purpose and usually deteriorated for want of support. The only way to maintain these small local collections would be to link them up with the Central Museum and have them supervised and inspected by the staff of that institution.

IV. *Mr. Burns* (Bombay) said the discussion raised the question of the functions of all Museums, in regard to which it was very difficult to lay down one law applicable to Museums devoted to all subjects.

He agreed with those members of the Conference who stated that a Science Museum should be a depository for records referring to the branch of science which the Museum is intended to illustrate, and especially for those records found in the country in which the Museum is placed. The Indian Museum broadly carried out that function for the whole of the Peninsula, and in his opinion the Provincial Museums should work upon similar lines, and illustrate the Fauna, Flora, Geology, Archaeology and Ethnology of the particular province or state in which they were situated in more detail than is possible in a Central Museum, however large. There was a function of an Art and Applied Art Museum which did not lend itself to this restriction of field. An Applied Art Museum to be of real value should in his opinion not only be a place of record of the artistic industries of the Province, but should in addition be regarded as a necessary portion of the teaching equipment of the School of Art.

With this in view, it was obviously requisite that side by side, with each set of exhibits of a local Artistic Industry, should be displayed the best specimens of similar work from other parts of India, from Europe and Japan. India is now flooded with a large quantity of the worst work produced in both Hemispheres and illustrated catalogues of an equally low artistic level. Both work and drawings in catalogues are copied by the crafts people of India, who have no traditional designs for many of the articles now in demand. It was therefore of great importance to the future that these craftsmen should have the opportunity of seeing the really fine work now being done in foreign countries, and copies at least of the best work of the past.

He thought it would be quite possible for the Indian Museum with the help of the Government of India to make a series of small but thoroughly representative collections of works, each collection containing originals or copies of the best specimens of some particular artistic craft common to the civilized countries and throughout the world, and produced at different periods. Such collections of comparative examples could be circulated on loan to Provincial Museums or Schools of Art in States or Provinces where the craft illustrated is extensively practised, where they would be of great educative value to the Art workers of the District or Province.

For instance a collection of gold and silver articles for the table or for personal adornment, exhibiting the best work of different parts of India, and in addition reproductions of Greek, Roman, Mediæval, and Modern European and Japanese articles of a similar character, would be of the greatest value in exhibiting the comparative merits of each style, and would give the craftsman a wider knowledge of his craft than is possible at present. Electrotyping and other methods of reproducing original works are now so comparatively cheap, that the formation of such collections could be made without a very great outlay, while the experience gained by the

circulating department of the Victoria and Albert Museum at South Kensington, would supply ample data regarding the organization of a similar department at Calcutta.

It would require a separate head to the department if it was to be successful, and a staff to arrange for packing, etc. With regard to Archaeological collections, he thought the rule should be that the Indian Museum should contain one or two of the finest specimens from every part of India, while Provincial Museums should exhibit in greater detail those records of the races who formerly inhabited each Province. When an isolated Archaeological specimen was found which supplied a missing link in the collection at the Indian Museum, he thought its place was in the Central Institution. When several were found, the best specimens should likewise find a home there, while the remainder should go to the Provincial Museum. These views might not be regarded with favour by some Curators, but he thought that they were in accordance with the sound principle which should guide the relations between the Indian Museum and those of the Provinces.

V. *Sardar Sahib Bhai Ram Singh* (Punjab) said that it would be more useful if works of other provinces were also displayed along with that of a particular provincial museum. This would help the workmen as well as the visitors to find out the difference between the work of the particular province and that of others. It was strongly recommended that the collections of antiquities might be displayed in the museum nearest to their place of origin. This arrangement of the Archaeological Department deserved appreciation.

After considerable informal discussion, the following resolutions were proposed to the meeting and passed, the first two by a majority, the third unanimously:—

1. That the provincial museums of India should in the main confine their scope to the presidency, province or state in which they are situated.
2. That in the opinion of the Conference, it is desirable that in every province or state there should be but one Government or State public museum.
3. That the officers of every provincial museum should have direct access to a good reference library, and that this library should whenever possible be connected with the museum.

Eighth subject—moved by MR. E. THURSTON,

"The preparation of guides for the public."

I. In opening this discussion *Mr. Thurston* (Madras) said that it was a well-known saying that the labels in a museum gallery should be in great measure a guide. Of this there was an excellent example in the reptilian section of the Indian Museum, which the members of the Conference had visited. There could be no possible doubt as to the advisability of issuing guide-books, written in popular and attractive style, and well illustrated. The preparation of such guide-books should be entrusted only to those possessed of special knowledge of the subjects dealt with. Personally, he had some years ago issued a guide to the Natural History section of the Madras Museum, but very varied duties had prevented him from re-writing it, and bringing it up to date. The question whether guide-books should be issued in vernacular languages struck him as one which might be discussed.

II. *Mr. Ibrahim Rahimtoola* (Bombay) said that he regarded the preparation of guides to the collections of a museum as very important. He did not agree that such works should only be prepared by expert Museum officers but was of the opinion that they should be compiled by any competent person. He regarded it, however, as a very important part of the duties of a Museum curator to prepare guides and catalogues as regards the collections in their charge.

III. *Sardar Sahib Bhai Ram Singh* (Punjab) was of the opinion that it would be a great help to the visitors and would be much appreciated by the

public if guides were published in the vernacular of the provinces. Vernacular publications would be a great boon specially to the artisans who were generally quite unacquainted with the English language but were in great need of learning the descriptions of artistic collections. As far as possible the vernacular guide-books should be issued free of all cost or must be so priced as to fall within the means of the artisan classes. To encourage the artisans guide-books should be sold to them at half the price charged to ordinary visitors.

IV. *Mr. Burkill* objected to the proposal that guides should be required from the pens of Curators; it would be sufficient if they were required from competent authorities chosen by those responsible for the Museums. Their preparation should not be a first duty of the Curators.

V. *Mr. Brown* (Punjab) said that in connection with the Lahore Museum a series of guide-books were being prepared with the object of assisting the ordinary visitor to understand and appreciate the collections of objects displayed in the various departments of the museum. Each hand-book would cover one particular department such as Archaeology or Industrial Art and would contain a brief reference to the collection generally, together with a detailed account of a certain number of the most remarkable examples. The books would be printed in English, would contain a number of illustrations and be sold at the door for a few annas. They would take a purely popular form and were for the benefit of the intelligent visitor, either European or Indian, who wished to be supplied with a brief account of any particular department in which he was interested. With regard to a proposal that there should be publications in the vernacular it was felt that these were not required. The class of visitor which really desired information was that class which could usually understand English. This fact was brought to light in connection with a scheme for displaying labels in English as well as in the local vernacular. Those who could read the latter were generally sufficiently educated to read the former. A small price should be put on all guide-books. Pamphlets or similar productions issued free were generally not valued by the ordinary visitor.

After considerable informal discussion the following resolution was passed by a majority of 5 to 3. Several delegates did not vote:—

That the preparation of guides and catalogues is eminently desirable provided that such works can be prepared by the officer in charge or by some competent authority. That the issue of guides in the vernacular languages is quite unnecessary.

Ninth subject—moved by *Mr. J. CAMERON*,

"Art sale-rooms in connection with Museums."

I. *Mr. Cameron* (Mysore) said that Bangalore being situated in a pleasant part of India, the Museum was visited by a considerable number of foreign and monied people, who were often on the look-out for art curious such as are peculiar to Mysore. But his experience was that visitors of this class preferred to purchase articles on the spot and were chary of leaving orders behind them. It was thought at first that keeping a handy register of the names and full addresses of the principal artisans in the province would meet the requirements of the case, but it was not so, and some years ago it was permitted by the Darbar to open a small sale room in the museum where sandalwood carvings, inlaid work, lacquer work and such like could be sold for cash payment, the conditions laid down being that all articles were of the very best workmanship and that no profits were claimed by the museum authorities. At the start Government gave a little help, but now the sale room was practically self-supporting, as several artisans appreciated the advantage placed at their disposal and kept the room stocked with popular artware. Of course the whole business was on a very limited scale at present, and it was difficult to maintain workmanship of the highest quality when the artisans were engaged on special work for the Government or otherwise. As a rule they were not only limited in number but also widely scattered in a few remote villages or hamlets. The main object was to place good work within the reach of the buyer at original prices.

II. *Mr. Burkill* remarked that it behoved governments to be watchful for the encouragement of art, the artisans being never or rarely other than proletarians, unable to lock up capital in objects in order to offer them for sale.

III. *Mr. Brown* (Punjab) said that an Art sale room had been conducted in connection with the Lahore Museum for many years and the sales effected during the last five years had been as follows:—

1902-03	1903-04	1904-05	1905-06	1906-07.
Rs. 789-5-0	Rs. 1,330-5-0	Rs. 1,684-0-6	Rs. 2,023-8-6	Rs. 2,670-10-9.

The sale room was under the direct control of the Curator, who supervised the stocking of this department and arranged for the purchase of approved specimens of local manufacture for display in this room. Further, orders were registered for duplicates of any particular article or copies of any object exhibited in the permanent collections of the Museum. These orders were transmitted to workmen capable of carrying out the manufacture of the required article, which, when completed, was forwarded by the Museum office to the intending purchaser. This was one of the methods employed for conducting business in the Lahore sale room. Another branch of work was that of commission sale. Artisans were encouraged to bring approved specimens of their handiwork for display in the sale room of the Museum on the understanding that a small commission was charged on their sale. To bring the objects and advantages of the sale room to the notice of craftsmen and others interested, a circular had been issued and widely circulated by the Local Government. There was little doubt that this branch of the Museum was doing useful work, but it could be considerably improved and extended if it were properly staffed. To keep the sale room constantly stocked with approved articles required the whole time of an able man thoroughly acquainted with all the arts of the Province and also knowing the requirements of the would-be purchasers. With regard to the former, the sale room Superintendent would have to spend a great deal of his time in travelling about from one art centre to another arranging for purchases, superintending the manufacture of replicas and would give orders for articles which he knows from experience would find sale.

The Lahore Museum had not the staff to carry this work out properly, so that its sphere of utility was somewhat limited, but even in its present state a considerable amount of good was effected, and as the sale proceeds of the last 5 years indicated. With regard to the general principle involved in the maintenance of sale rooms in connection with Museums there were many objections to be brought forward. The principal objection was that they were competing with private enterprise and that their work should be left for the dealer to transact in his shop in the bazar. From the point of view of business this argument was incontrovertible but the artistic aspect of the case should not be overlooked. The dealer traded in every form of art workmanship, the good with the bad, and as often as not his stock consisted of the most popular and fashionable articles, which it would not be beside the mark to designate as frequently the least artistic and often the most degraded types of work. The dealer's object was business pure and simple and his stock was composed of articles gathered together for that purpose only. A sale room should however be conducted with a very different intention and it was felt that if maintained on proper lines it would not compete with private enterprise in the least degree. The main object of the sale room should be to bring to the notice of the purchasing public the very highest and best examples of local art industry; the matter of trade being a very secondary consideration as long as the concern were not run at a loss. A small but well conducted department with this intention would do a great deal towards maintaining the high quality of Indian Art, both as regards design and manufacture, and would further be a practical method of assisting the workmen to continue with their craft. Briefly the subject resolved itself into the question of, not "should sale rooms be maintained," but "by which

department should these sale rooms be maintained" and until this difficulty was satisfactorily solved Mr. Brown was of the opinion that some considerable good could be gained by associating them with Provincial Museums.

IV. *Sardar Sahib Bhai Ram Singh* (Punjab) said that the annual increase of sale proceeds of the Lahore Museum sale room indicated that this branch of the museum was achieving a great popularity every day. If it were placed in charge of an accomplished man having a knowledge of arts and specially well versed in book-keeping, assisted by a sufficient staff, it would no doubt do much good in maintaining the excellent quality of Indian Arts, as artisans would always be encouraged to turn out first class workmanship and would be given the necessary instruction and advice for that purpose.

V. *Dr. Mitra* (Kashmir) said that he was not in favour of having sale rooms in connection with Museums. The Museums could, however, do a great deal in encouraging and improving the Art Industries. In the Indian Museum there should be courts, where representative articles of all parts of India should be kept, for that would serve as a permanent exhibition of such articles.

A resolution proposing that Art sale rooms should be established in connection with provincial museums, in cases in which they did not already exist, was put forward but was negatived by eight votes to six.

Tenth subject. Certain questions as to details of Museum management put forward by the delegate from Baluchistan.

It was agreed that these questions should not be discussed at the Conference, as they could be settled better by a personal discussion with the Superintendents of the Indian Museum.

Eleventh subject—moved by MR. J. W. N. CUMMING,

"Financial aspects of Museums."

I. *Mr. Cumming* (Baluchistan) said that before commencing the discussion of the question of the financial aspects of museums, he would suggest that each representative state briefly the financial conditions under which his own particular museum was run, *i.e.*, whether maintained wholly by Government or by a Native State or whether a private or Municipal concern and if so whether aided by Government. He thought it would also assist the deliberation of the conference if the delegates give some idea of the grants received and the cost and nature of establishments maintained therefrom. Once in possession of such data they would be in a better position to discuss the financial aspects of museums. To begin with the institution represented by himself, the Quetta Museum was purely a Government concern. An excellent building with good furniture had been provided and Government allowed an annual grant which this year (1907-1908) amounted to Rs. 300 for furniture, Rs. 820 for contingencies. Government allowed also for an establishment consisting of a bearer on Rs. 15 per month, a Chowkidar on Rs. 12 and a Sweeper on Rs. 10, the last two being intended also for the library, which received a grant-in-aid from the Government, being otherwise supported by public subscriptions, etc. The work of the Museum was carried on by Mr. Cumming as Honorary Secretary and Curator and he was assisted by a native clerk from one of the Government offices, who received for his trouble a small allowance of Rs. 15 per month. Neither of them could spare more than 2 hours a day on an average and this time was mostly taken up with the correspondence and other office work of the museum and of the Baluchistan Natural History Society which proved of much assistance to the museum. The result was that progress as regards classification and arrangement of exhibits must naturally be very slow. He might add that the Quetta Museum employed in the post of bearer a taxidermist trained in the Indian Museum, thanks to the liberality of the Hon'ble Sir Henry McMahon who allowed the man so employed another Rs. 15 per month from his own pocket, thus making his pay Rs. 30 in all. The Museum had a committee of management in charge of the museum consisting of the Political Agent,

Quetta, as President, and 5 members with Mr. Cumming as Honorary Secretary, and so far things had worked very smoothly. The Committee sat once a month; its proceedings were regularly recorded and the accounts were audited by one of its members. The arrangement as regards the establishment could not of course continue very much longer on its present lines, if the museum was to become as useful an Institution as the importance of Quetta demanded. Mr. Cumming found the work getting too heavy for him and he hoped it would not be long before Government would be induced to sanction a better establishment, which should he thought consist at least of a permanent Curator, and a more highly paid taxidermist and one peon in addition to the part services of a clerk, sweeper and chowkidar. A larger contingent grant would also be necessary if extensive models or casts and a complete set of works of reference were to be purchased and kept up to date.

II. *Mr. Thurston* (Madras) submitted the following statement as regards the Madras Museum:—

Salaries—

	Rs.	a	p.
Superintendent (500-50-800)	9,600	0	0
Exchange compensation allowance	600	0	0
Local allowance (200)	2,400	0	0
<i>Establishment—</i>			
First assistant (60-2-80), Herbarium keeper (100-2-120)	2,376	0	0
Clerks (35-2-55), (30-1-40), (15-1-20) and Taxidermists (30-1-35), (20-1-25)	2,052	0	0
Servants 1 (15), 2 (12), 1 (11), 2 (10), 4 (9), 8 (8), 9 (7), 6 (8-1-10), 1 (7-1-10), 1 (6), 3 (5), 1 (4-1-10), 3 (4)	3,954	0	0
<i>Connemara Public Library—Establishment—</i>			
Sub-Librarian (100-5-150)	1,800	0	0
Attendants (25-1-30), (15-1-20), (12-1-15)	624	0	0
Servants (8), (7), (4)	228	0	0
<i>Allowance—</i>			
Travelling allowance	1,200	0	0
<i>Supplies and Services—</i>			
Cost of specimens purchased on tour	900	0	0
Objects of interest and coin purchased at Head Quarters	700	0	0
Fittings, furniture, etc., for the collection	2,400	0	0
Cost of Books and publications	900	0	0
Library	2,000	0	0
Lithographic plates	500	0	0
Ammunition	15	0	0
Charges for feeding live animals	275	0	0
Expenses—Reading Coin	10	0	0
<i>Contingencies—</i>			
Purchase of furniture	60	0	0
Tour charges	285	0	0
Repairs to furniture	100	0	0
Cleaning charges	65	0	0
Postal charges	280	0	0
Telegram charges	20	0	0
Telephone charges	200	0	0
Rents, rates and taxes	4,473	0	0
Office Expenses	605	0	0
<i>Marine Aquarium—Establishment—</i>			
Head Keeper (18-2-30), Second Keeper (10-1-15)	336	0	0
Servants 2 (9), 2 (8), 1 (7), 1 (5), 1 (3)	586	0	0
<i>Supplies and services—</i>			
Food for animals	500	0	0
<i>Contingencies—</i>			
Lump provision	650	0	0
Add for rounding	4	0	0
GRAND TOTAL	40,700	0	0

III. *Mr. Brown* (Punjab) submitted a statement showing the annual expenditure of the Lahore Museum. He said also that special grants were occasionally sanctioned, but the sum expended on the Museum during a

normal year was that indicated in the statement. With regard to the control, etc., of the Lahore Museum it might be mentioned that it was financed by the Local Government aided by a contribution of Rs. 15 per mensem from the Lahore Municipality. It was controlled by a Committee of representative gentlemen belonging to the province, the Secretary of which is the Curator. A Committee meeting was held annually to read the report, pass the financial statement and to submit to the Local Government any proposals which might be approved. This method of conducting the business part of the Museum worked more satisfactorily. The building was open free to visitors all the year round except on the first Monday of each month, when it was reserved for ladies only. The number of visitors who passed through the turnstile during 1906-07 was 314,548. On the days devoted to the "purdah nashin" 4,420 women were admitted. On these occasions the Museum was strictly "purdah," all the men attendants being withdrawn and their places taken by a lady superintendent with a staff of female assistants.

LAHORE MUSEUM.

Statement of Annual Expenditure.

Particulars.	Amount.	Total.
<i>Establishment—</i>		
1 Curator	Rs. 1,200 0 0	1,200 0 0
1 Darogha	935 0 0	
1 Clerk	488 0 0	
1 Librarian	81 14 11	
1 Carpenter	325 0 0	
1 Label Writer	222 8 0	
1 Daftri	106 0 0	
1 Head Farash	96 0 0	
1 Chaprassee	84 0 0	
6 Farashes	429 11 4	
2 Chowkidars	168 0 0	
1 Mali	106 0 0	
1 Assistant Mali	77 0 0	
1 Bhisti	65 0 0	
2 Sweepers	93 0 0	
1 Lady Superintendent	48 0 0	
5 Female Attendants	52 0 0	
		3,377 2 3
<i>Contingencies—</i>		
Purchases	2,593 10 0	
Books and Journals	316 7 7	
Furniture	15 4 0	
Gardening	20 11 6	
Service Labels	93 4 0	
Stationery	78 3 0	
Photographs	58 11 0	
Railway freight	326 2 0	
Telegrams	7 15 0	
Sawdust	30 0 0	
Advertising	11 12 0	
Miscellaneous—nails, hinges, naphthaline, camphor, spirit, coolies, turpentine, kerosine, dusters, glue, paints, etc.	436 5 10	
		3,988 5 11
		8,565 8 2

IV. *Sardar Sahib Bhai Ram Singh* (Punjab) was of the opinion that provincial museums should be managed by a committee of respectable gentlemen of their provinces and the curator, who would be the Secretary. The general report and the financial statement should be placed by the Secretary before the Committee for audit and submission to the Local Government. For the financial aid of the Museum, Municipalities of the provinces should share expenses with the Local Governments as far as possible.

V. *Mr. Ganguli* (United Provinces) submitted the following statement as regards the Lucknow Museum :—

The Provincial Museum at Lucknow is maintained by annual grants from Provincial Revenues. Small contributions to its funds are received from some municipalities in the province but the amount of these do not exceed Rs. 150 in all and are paid into the Treasury to the credit of the Government. The annual expenditure is budgetted for by the Committee of Management and the Budget Estimates are passed by the Local Government. From the year 1885-86, which was the first year of its existence as a Provincial institution, to 1890-91, the annual grant ranged from Rs. 18,000 to Rs. 12,000. Its gradual reduction to the latter amount was due to the fact that when show cases and other fittings which the Museum required in the beginning had been supplied, the institution required a smaller grant for its maintenance. During the past five years the normal grant has fluctuated between Rs. 10,245 to Rs. 10,804. Special grants to meet emergencies, *e.g.*, cost of large collections of coins or other exhibits, are liberally made by the Local Government on application from the Committee. In 1903-04, a sum of Rs. 744 from Imperial sources was allotted by the Director General of Archaeology for purchase of antiquities for the Provincial Museum. The expenditure for the past five years is shown below under the chief budget heads :—

HEADS OF EXPENDITURE.	1902-03.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.	1906-07.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
<i>Establishment.</i>					
Curator	3,165	3,000	3,000	3,636	3,600
Establishment, : 3 clerks, 1 Botanical Collector, 1 Taxidermist, 1 Carpenter, 1 Daftri and 19 servants	2,573	2,521	2,592	2,824	2,959
Travelling allowances	..	..	..	402	261
<i>Contingencies.</i>					
Acquisition and preservation of specimens	1,502	1,492 4,500	1,639 4,400	1,586	1,549
Library	1,000	996	999	547	998
New cases and furniture	300	500	500 3,000	500	499
Miscellaneous ; clothing for servants, hot weather charges, water rate on buildings, etc.	968	1,041	975	1,079	995
	9,508	14,050	17,105	10,574	10,861

NOTE.—The figures in italics represent expenditure from special grants.

The present allotment of Rs. 11,000 is just sufficient to maintain the museum as it is now composed and organised. If it be intended to extend its scope by including a zoological section on a large scale, additional funds would be required not only to maintain a qualified staff of taxidermists and collectors but also to provide for improved show cases for an adequate display of the exhibits in the zoological collection.

VI. *Dr. Annandale* said that the Indian Museum was entirely a Government institution. The Natural History Section, of which he was in charge, included the zoological and archæological collections; but the Superintendent of this section had also, in rather an indefinite manner, control of the buildings of the whole institution. The Museum was under a Board of Trustees, members of which were appointed by the Government of India, the Government of Bengal, the Asiatic Society of Bengal and by the Board itself. So far as the Natural History Section was concerned, the Imperial Government gave an annual grant of Rs. 36,000. In addition to this there were certain small sources of income, such as the sale of publications, about Rs. 1,500 a year. The Government grant was supposed to cover all expenses except the salaries of the gazetted staff (which come on an average to Rs. 28,000 a year and were also paid by Government) and necessary repairs to the buildings, which were undertaken by the Public Works Department. Of the Government grant of Rs. 36,000, Rs. 20,044 was paid in salaries to subordinate officers and servants, who were appointed by the Trustees with the consent of the Government of India. Until the present year no budget had been drawn up but each item above Rs. 50 was considered by the Trustees. This arrangement had not proved satisfactory, however, as it was impossible for the Superintendent to procure stores, purchase specimens or make arrangements about the publication of scientific papers without undergoing a somewhat cumbersome procedure. Before the beginning of the financial year 1907-08, therefore, a proposal to submit an annual budget and to grant the Superintendent increased powers as regards expenditure was drawn up by a sub-committee and accepted by the Trustees. A copy of the proposals in detail was submitted, but he would point out that both the library grant (Rs. 4,000) and the grant for expenses of publications (Rs. 4,000) had already proved inadequate and had been supplemented by special grants. The money for these special grants came from a reserve fund consisting mainly of the salaries of posts on the staff temporarily vacant, which the Trustees were permitted by Government to retain.

INDIAN MUSEUM, NATURAL HISTORY SECTION.

Allotment of Funds, 1907-1908.

	Rs.
Library (no work to cost more than Rs. 200 without special sanction)	4,000
Publications (no memoir to cost more than Rs. 500 without special sanction)	4,000
Stationery and Postage (without special sanction)	750
Transport of Specimens to consulting specialists (without special sanction)	300
Alcohol and drugs (without special sanction)	750
Scientific apparatus and glasses (no item to exceed Rs. 400 without special sanction)	3,000
Taxidermists' and carpenters' supplies (without special sanction)	1,000
Travelling allowance and collecting expenses of gazetted staff (without special sanction)	600
Travelling allowance and collecting expenses of subordinate staff and purchase of specimens (no item to exceed Rs. 200 without special sanction)	3,400

Expenditure on exhibition cases and the like was to be treated as extraordinary expenditure and was to come either from the reserve fund or to form the subject of a special application to Government.

VII. *Mr. I. H. Burkill* laid on the table the abstract statement of the financial position of the Industrial Section of the Indian Museum to be found in his report for the year 1905-06, pages 4 to 8.

The following resolution was passed unanimously:—

That each member of the Conference be asked to send to the Secretary for distribution and consideration an abstract statement* of the financial position, needs, prospects of the Museum he represents, and sources of the funds on which the Museum depends.

* The abstract statements which have been submitted are included in the present report.

Twelfth subject—moved by *MR. G. D. GANGULI*,

"The question of separating the botanical collection from the Lucknow Provincial Museum, etc."

I. This question was introduced by *Mr. Ganguli* (United Provinces), who said that he had been directed by the committee of management of the Lucknow Provincial Museum to ask the opinion of the Conference as to the disposal of the specimens in question. He explained how the collection had come to be in the Museum, gave details as to its condition, etc., and stated that a proposal had been made to hand it over to the Horticultural Gardens, Lucknow. He also gave particulars as regards the collection of economic products in the Lucknow Museum and asked for advice as regards them.

II. *Mr. Holland* thought it was within the province of the Conference to give advice on the point raised by *Mr. Ganguli*, as the Committee of Management of the Lucknow Museum asked for an opinion on the question. He stated that he had visited the Lucknow Museum himself at the request of His Honour Sir John Hewett, and had given a report containing advice as to the reorganization of the Museum. It was his opinion that the Lucknow Museum should concentrate on archæology and numismatics—the two questions in which it had already established a first class position—that its botanical collections might be conveniently split off and handed over to the care of the officer in charge of the horticultural gardens, while it would be for the good of the public as well as for the benefit of zoology to remove the collections of stuffed animals, and to establish for them a separate museum in connection with zoological gardens in some convenient part of the city. The industrial collections might possibly be handed over to an industrial school, and the economic products might be made use of by the Provincial Agricultural Department. Thus, the suggestions made were in line with the principles governing the reorganisation of the Calcutta Museum, that is to say, the materials available in Lucknow should be divided into natural groups; and seeing it was not possible to keep these together in one institution, it would be better to develop along the lines suggested. The Chairman understood that it was the intention of Sir John Hewett to organize zoological gardens at Lucknow, and in them to establish a zoological museum as soon as the Provincial funds would permit of the additional expenditure involved. He was also in favour of recommending the Museum to hand over their botanical specimens to the horticultural gardens already established in Lucknow.

III. *Mr. Burkill* remarked that he was aware how little space for economic collections was available in the Lucknow Museum, and that he would like again to see the collections before making a recommendation upon the alternatives of housing them elsewhere or doing away with them.

In regard to this subject the following resolution was proposed and passed unanimously:—

That the Conference approve the proposal of the Committee of the Lucknow Museum to dismantle the collection of botanical specimens at present exhibited in that museum, but recommend that the specimens should not be destroyed, dispersed or sent elsewhere until the Reporter on Economic Products, who will be able to visit Lucknow in a few months, has had an opportunity of inspecting and reporting upon them.

Thirteenth subject—moved by *DR. A. MITRA*,

"The question of an annual museum conference."

I. *Dr. Mitra* (Kashmir) in opening the discussion, congratulated himself and his fellow delegates on the success of their labours, which had been of the greatest benefit to the curators of provincial museums present at the meeting. The Conference had discussed and had come to practical conclusions on most important questions of administration and other points connected therewith. He wished to make special mention of the scientific spirit with which the Chairman had presided, of the practical instruction received from the Superintendents of the Indian Museum, of the assistance

given by Mr. Thurston, and also of the important results arrived at by the sub-committee on art publications. Altogether the Conference had more than fully justified its existence and would be of immense good to the institutions represented by the various delegates, who now felt that each of them was a member of a conference of museums of the Indian Empire. They would now have a uniformity in their plan of work, and he was of the opinion that they could not have a better guide than the authorities of the "Central Imperial Museum" as he insisted on calling it in spite of objections that had been made to the word "Imperial." They had been brought into closer touch with one another and this could not but be profitable to all concerned.

As to future Conferences. It would be good if there could be an annual conference, but to this the Accountant General might object unless the Governments sanctioned additional grants for travelling allowances in the budget, and the Accountant General's objection would have great weight. Besides, the delegates had swallowed a great deal and must have time for digestion: it would take some time to make practical use of the information gained. He suggested, therefore, that the Conference should be triennial. During the intervening years the representatives of the different museums could of course consult one another and he would recommend that all local museums should vow, unofficially it might be, allegiance to the authorities of the Indian Museum. It would be useful if the Conference met at different centres. He would also suggest that if a standing committee were formed as an advisory body on all matters of museums in India, the work of the present Conference would be usefully kept up.

II. *Dr. Annandale* expressed hearty agreement with *Dr. Mitra* as regards the proposals that a triennial Conference should be summoned to meet at various centres and that a permanent standing committee should be formed. He felt very grateful for the sentiments expressed as regards the Indian Museum and believed that the present Conference would mark a new era as regards the relations between the Museums of India. Without losing their independence in the slightest, he believed that they would be able to enjoy a closer union both among themselves and with the Indian Museum. In one respect, however, it was perhaps the case that the present conference had not been quite so representative as it might have been, namely, in the fact that the Imperial Agricultural Department, the Archaeological Survey and the Bombay Natural History Society had not been officially represented. The Agricultural Department were getting together a very important entomological museum at Pusa; the Archaeological Survey would, if the scheme for the reorganization of the Indian Museum which the Chairman had explained were carried into effect, have control of the central archaeological collection; while the Bombay Natural History Society possessed, with the exception of the Indian and Madras Museums, by far the most important natural history collections in the country. If a triennial conference was to be held, he would recommend that these departments and this Society should be asked to send delegates to the next meeting. Possibly also delegates might be invited from Ceylon and other neighbouring countries. It would not be necessary to embody his suggestions in a formal resolution, as the standing committee, if it were formed and recognized by Government, could represent such matters to Government, if it were thought advisable.

III. *Mr. Brown* (Punjab) thought that a Conference each year would not be advisable, as it is quite possible that the resolutions brought forward from time to time would require a longer period than twelve months to have any appreciable effect on the policy of Museums generally. He agreed with *Dr. Mitra* that a Conference every third year would be more suitable and that these should be held at each Museum centre in rotation. In this connection he thought it desirable that delegates should be invited from other quarters than those represented at this Conference, and that particularly the Archaeological Department should depute an officer to indicate that department's interests in Museum work.

IV. *Sardar Sahib Bhai Ram Singh* (Punjab) was of the opinion that a general meeting of the delegates should be held annually, generally in Calcutta and sometimes in other stations wherever the Conference might appoint from time to time.

The following resolutions were passed unanimously:—

1. That a Conference be held triennially.
2. That a standing committee be appointed to make arrangements regarding future Conferences and to advise on Museum matters.
3. That the standing committee take steps to ensure that bodies interested in Museum matters shall be represented at future Conferences.
4. That the standing committee consist of five members.
5. That the standing committee consist of Messrs. T. H. Holland, E. Thurston, Percy Brown, and of the Superintendents of the Natural History and Industrial Sections of the Indian Museum, and that they shall have the power to fill vacancies that may occur in the membership of the committee.

THE RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE CONFERENCE.

The resolutions passed by the Conference have already been given under the headings of the various debates from which each arose; but it may be convenient to print them again together, giving to each a number, which may be used as a reference in any future correspondence. The Conference had no power to pledge the Governments or Institutions represented by the delegates to the expenditure of money or to the official sanction of its proposals. The majority of its resolutions, therefore, although some deal with matters which can be arranged directly by the heads of the local and central museums, must be regarded as advice given to the Imperial and Local Governments of India by the Conference.

It may be as well to state the method in which the resolutions were drawn up and discussed. In the first place, at the end of each debate, the subjects to be embodied in the resolutions arising therefrom and the opinions of the delegates to be expressed were discussed informally and a sub-committee was appointed to draft the resolution for each day's debates. This sub-committee consisted, so far as the first day's debates were concerned, of the following delegates:—Messrs. Annandale, Burns, and Cameron; while Messrs. Annandale and Thurston were appointed to deal in the same way with the debates of the other two days during which the Conference sat. The drafted resolutions were then submitted at a special meeting held at the end of the Conference and their wording was carefully considered. In cases in which there was any difference of opinion an informal discussion took place, and even in those in which the opinions of the delegates were unanimous, changes in the wording of the resolution were frequently suggested and discussed.

The resolutions the first word of which is marked with an asterisk were passed unanimously, the others by a majority.

- I. *That the systematic exchange of duplicates and of reproduction of unique specimens between the Indian Museum and the Provincial† Museums would be beneficial to both from a scientific and an economic point of view.
- II. *That in order to ascertain the wants of the different Museums as regards duplicates and reproductions, the Superintendent of the Indian Museum should have opportunities of consulting with the officers of the Provincial† Museums from time to time.
- III. *That lists of duplicate specimens available for distribution in the various Museums should be circulated.

† The word "Provincial" is understood to include Presidency and State Museums.

- IV. *That, in order that these proposals should be carried out, it is necessary that there should be a considerable increase in the expert staff of the central museum at Calcutta and in the skilled subordinate staff both of the Indian and of Provincial Museums.
- V. *That as the qualities and training necessary for subordinates who have the sorting, cataloguing and distribution of specimens cannot be gauged by the ordinary standard of examination, Directors of Public Instruction in India should be informed of the qualifications necessary for the work and of the prospects of the boys fitted to undertake it, and that selected candidates for the posts in the Provincial Museums should undergo a period of training in the Indian Museum.
- VI. *That taxidermists for the Provincial Museums should be trained in the Indian Museum, and that an expert taxidermist should be employed from Europe or America and attached to the staff of the Indian Museum, in order that he might both do the work of that institution and supervise the training of the provincial men.
- VII. *That in order to assist the Indian Museum in its survey of the fauna of India, local museums shall give what assistance they can, and that the Superintendent of the Natural History Section shall be asked to draw up and circulate a statement of the special requirements of the Museum.
- VIII. *That in order to interest recognized authorities on Natural History, Archæology and other subjects in the different provinces they shall be given a definite position on the staff of the Museums by their appointment as honorary officers.
- IX. *That the "Records" and "Memoirs" of the Geological Survey shall be the recognized official medium for the publication of scientific geological work in India, the "Records" and "Memoirs" of the Indian Museum for that of zoology and the publications of the Botanical Survey for that of botanical work, the "Records" in each case being devoted to shorter papers and notes, and the "Memoirs" to more detailed monographs.
- X. *That in every case the size of the "Records" shall be super royal octavo ($11\frac{1}{2}'' \times 7''$).
- XI. *That in the "Records" each paper shall commence on a separate page.
- XII. *The Conference consider it desirable that the publications on Art—Pure and Industrial—made in India should be unified. The publication should take the form of a serial edited and conducted in a way similar to the Memoirs of the Geological Survey, Zoological, Botanical and Archæological departments.
- XIII. *That the Provincial monographs on Industrial Arts and the Technical Art series published by the Survey of India should be absorbed. From the serial extra plates might be easily struck off for the use of Schools of Art and for other purposes.
- XIV. *The Conference believe that the present system, by which the Provincial Governments are asked to write monographs on specified subjects, cannot much longer continue, because the subjects common to most of the provinces have now been exhausted, and further the Conference believe that the Technical Art series find a far more extensive sale among European visitors to India

- than among the class for whom it was intended. The class to which these visitors belong would be more easily reached by a serial than they are by the present publication, while the artisans should be reached by pattern books through the Schools of Art. The serial would form the basis from which the designs of the pattern books should be taken.
- XV. *That all zoological types in India shall be deposited in the Indian Museum, but that the Superintendent of the Natural History Section shall be empowered, with the consent of the Trustees, to transfer to the British Museum (Natural History) such entomological "types" as may be, in his opinion, in danger of destruction owing to the climate.
- XVI. *That all Palæontological "types" shall be placed in charge of the Director of the Geological Survey, and all Botanical "types" in that of the Director of the Botanical Survey.
- XVII. *That in each case either a duplicate, a drawing or photograph of the type shall be sent to the institution from which the original specimen was obtained, and that the "type" itself may be lent for scientific examination to this or other institutions if it can be sent with safety.
- XVIII. *That it would be useful that lists of types should be published periodically.
- XIX. *That all specimens received at any Museum shall be entered in a general register as expeditiously as possible and that the register shall be divided into volumes representing the main sections of the collection in such a way that the ordinary clerk can appreciate the difference between these sections at sight and with no possibility of confusion. The following eight headings were approved as being suitable for the collections of a Provincial Museum:—
1. Archæology and Epigraphy.
 2. Coins and Medals.
 3. Art and Ethnology.
 4. Economic Products.
 5. Geology.
 6. Plants.
 7. Animals.
 8. Books, Maps and Manuscripts.
- XX. *That the Conference expressed their approval of the scheme for splitting the Indian Museum into sections as proposed by the Trustees and were of the opinion that the principles involved were the best so far as the central museum for India was concerned.
- XXI. *Dr. Annandale and Mr. Burkill were requested to incorporate their remarks on the subject of the preservation of specimens in a note and to circulate them to the different museums. They were also requested to conduct systematic experiments on the effect of naphthaline in preserving specimens of different kinds from the attack of insects.
- XXII. That the provincial museums of India should in the main confine their scope to the presidency, province or state in which they are situated.

- XXIII. That in the opinion of the Conference, it is desirable that in every province or state there should be but one Government or State public museum.
- XXIV. *That the officers of every provincial museum should have direct access to a good reference library, and that this library should whenever possible be connected with the museum.
- XXV. That the preparation of guides and catalogues is eminently desirable provided that such works can be prepared by the officer in charge or by some competent authority. That the issue of guides in the vernacular languages is quite unnecessary.
- XXVI. *That each member of the Conference be asked to send to the Secretary for distribution and consideration an abstract statement of the financial position, needs, prospects of the Museum he represents, and sources of the funds on which the Museum depends.
- XXVII. *That the Conference approve the proposal of the Committee of the Lucknow Museum to dismantle the collection of Botanical specimens at present exhibited in that Museum, but recommend that the specimens should not be destroyed, dispersed or sent elsewhere until the Reporter on Economic Products, who will be able to visit Lucknow in a few months, has had an opportunity of inspecting and reporting upon them.
- XXVIII. *That a Conference be held triennially.
- XXIX. *That a standing committee be appointed to make arrangements regarding future Conferences and to advise on Museum matters.
- XXX. *That the standing committee take steps to ensure that bodies interested in Museum matters shall be represented at future Conferences.
- XXXI. *That the standing committee consist of five members.
- XXXII. *That the standing committee consist of Messrs. T. H. Holland, E. Thurston, Percy Brown and of the Superintendents of the Natural History and Industrial Sections of the Indian Museum, and that they shall have the power to fill vacancies that may occur in the membership of the committee.