

the municipality of Rio de Janeiro to waive construction taxes. It provides, furthermore, that the amount of rent to be collected from the tenants shall be determined in accordance with a certain percentage of their earnings, and loans building companies funds for the several purposes mentioned.

Additional evidence of the growing interest in social service is furnished by the establishment in Buenos Ayres of the "Argentine Social Museum," an institution engaged in the study of the general problems of city and country, and in the promotion of suitable legislation. To these ends it issues various publications, maintains a bureau of consultation and conducts lecture courses. Leagues against the spread of tuberculosis, also, are becoming numerous, and in some cases are given active support by the respective governments. Brazil, for example, admits free of duty drugs and instruments for the use of such associations, and grants them the freedom of the mails.

CHAPTER XVIII

SCIENCE

WHEN one considers the notions that are all too prevalent about the countries of Latin America in general, it may seem diffi-

cult to realize that in each republic, depending in some measure, of course, on the degree of its material advancement, there is to be found a body of men who are earnestly striving to solve scientific problems and to make the results of their investigations known. Even if little more than the titles of some of the learned societies and similar organizations for the promotion of science are given, they will suffice to furnish an idea of how widely diffused scientific activities in Latin America are.

Buenos Ayres is the seat of the "Argentine Scientific Society," and Rio de Janeiro that of the "Syllogeio Brasileiro," an organization comprising the "National Academy of Medicine," the "Institute of the Order of Lawyers" and the "Academy of Letters." Mexico has a "National Academy of Science" and Caracas an "Academy of Social Sciences and Belles Lettres." Atheneums for the holding of lectures and discussions on current problems, and for the cultivation of scientific, literary and artistic interests, are found in cities like Buenos Ayres, Montevideo, San José (Costa Rica) and Lima.

Legal studies are represented, for example, by the "Academy of Law and Jurisprudence," in Mexico, the membership of which includes the most prominent lawyers and statesmen of the country. Medicine and

surgery are promoted by the work of such organizations as the "Argentine Medical Society" and the "National Medical Institute" of Mexico. The latter body, also, gives considerable attention, among other things, to the study of Mexican fauna and flora.

In countries where mining is the great industry, societies for its development are numerous and active. The "National Geological Institute" of Mexico, equipped with excellent museums, laboratories and other facilities for practical work, conducts valuable investigations of the country's resources. Peru has a "Corps of Mining Engineers," which has contributed effectively to the exploration of the mining districts and to the description of geological formations.

Societies, institutes and academics for the study of geography, history and statistics are quite as common as those devoted to other branches of learning. Among them may be mentioned the "Geographical Institute," at Buenos Ayres; the "National Geographical Society," at Lima; the "Physical and Geographical Institute, at San José (Costa Rica); the "Historical and Geographical Institute of Brazil," at Rio de Janeiro; the "Geographical and Statistical Society," at Mexico; and the national acad-

emies of history in Venezuela, Colombia and Cuba.

Most of these learned societies publish numerous books and pamphlets illustrative of the scientific researches carried on under their direction. Their libraries, museums and varied collections are utilized freely by governments and private individuals; and their activities in general contribute very appreciably to the intellectual and material progress of their respective countries.

National and international congresses for the discussion of problems connected with the study of law and medicine are frequently held. Since the close of the nineteenth century, however, intellectual coöperation of an international sort has taken the form of a series of scientific congresses in which the program has been far more comprehensive in scope. At the session of the fourth Latin-American Scientific Congress, held at Santiago, Chile, in 1908, the United States, also, was represented; and, to signalize the entrance of that country into intellectual fellowship with the other twenty nations of the New World, the name of the assemblage was changed to "Pan-American Scientific Congress."

The scientific subject for which the Latin Americans have especial fondness, and in

which many of them excel, is international law. Explanations of this preference are not difficult to find. Partly temperamental and partly historical, the reasons for it lie deep in the processes that have attended the course of national development in the countries of Latin America. Boundary disputes have had some influence; but the chief impulse has come from the great number of problems associated with the introduction of foreign capital and immigration. Many treatises, accordingly, have been written by Latin Americans on the aspects of international law relating to conditions in the various republics. A congress of jurists, also, held at Rio de Janeiro, in 1912, made considerable progress toward fixing the bases of a future codification of the law of nations, more especially in its Latin-American bearings.

Astronomical observatories and meteorological stations are numerous in Latin America, particularly in the capital cities. Of these probably the best equipped are the one connected with the University of La Plata, in the Argentine Republic, and the National Observatory, near the city of Mexico. Both are in close communication with similar establishments abroad and with foreign scientific bodies.

Practically all of the Latin-American

countries have a national museum of some kind for the display of objects relating to natural history, or to historic events and personages. Among the most noteworthy of them are the institutions in the cities of Mexico, La Plata, Buenos Ayres, Rio de Janeiro, Santiago (Chile), San José, La Paz and Lima, and the Goeldi Museum at Pará, Brazil. Nearly all of them issue publications, and are otherwise active in the advancement of science. In several cases their collections were brought together under the direction of French or German scholars.

The National Museum of Mexico, one of the earliest to be founded in Latin America, is famous for its local antiquities. The Museum of La Plata, which was originally established as an official center of research on the model of the Smithsonian Institution at Washington, has since come to form part of the equipment of the university of that name. It is said to contain the largest collection of American fossils in existence. The National Museum at Rio de Janeiro is particularly valuable for its assortment of minerals, and of objects illustrating the life of the various native peoples who inhabit, or have inhabited, the huge area of Brazil. An excellent collection of pottery is housed in the institution at San José. The Goeldi Museum at Pará is devoted to

the exhibition of objects characteristic of the region of the Amazon.

Among the botanical gardens in Latin America, the one at Rio de Janeiro deservedly enjoys the greatest reputation. Covering an area of nearly 2,000 acres, it contains upwards of 60,000 specimens of vegetation from all parts of the world, and especially from Brazil itself.

A few zoölogical gardens, also, are found. The finest of them is located at Buenos Ayres. Its grounds are tastefully laid out, and the arrangements for the convenience and pleasure of the human visitor are no less effective than those for the comfort of its bird, beast and reptile occupants. Rio de Janeiro is about the only Latin-American city that has an aquarium of any importance.

As might be supposed from the description already given of the aborigines in colonial times, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador are the great resting-places of archæological remains. The ruins existing in these countries comprise such structures as pyramids, tombs, palaces, temples and fortresses. Some of them are built of adobe, others of blocks of hewn and unhewn stone, often of a prodigious size and weight. Many of the monuments, particularly in Mexico, Guatemala and Bolivia, are elaborately carved with representations of

human and animal figures and with symbolic devices, often accompanied by explanatory texts that still await decipherment.

Mexico, rightly called the "Egypt of America," both for the intrinsic worth of its treasures and for the curious resemblance they bear to the antiquities of the Nile country, is to-day the chief center of archaeological research in the New World. The fact has been recognized by the recent establishment in the city of Mexico of an "International School of American Archaeology and Ethnology," under the auspices of several universities of the United States and of the respective governments of France and Prussia, acting in coöperation with that of the republic of Mexico itself.

CHAPTER XIX

JOURNALISM

EVERY one of the Latin-American republics has a number of newspapers and other periodicals proportionate in quantity and quality to its stage of material progress. In the relatively backward states these journals are apt to be crude in make-up, and often in ideas as well. They consist commonly of four pages, badly printed on a poor quality of paper. The news they offer