to the reception committee, proposed by Mr. E. Windsor Richards and seconded by the secretary, Mr. Bennett H. Brough. The meeting was attended by more than 300 members, and an attractive programme of visits to metallurgical works in various parts of America was arranged.

THE INTERNATIONAL ELECTRICAL CONGRESS AT ST. LOUIS.

SINCE the article on the proceedings of the International Electrical Congress at St. Louis appeared in our issue of October 27, we have received the subjoined report to the congress of the chamber of Government delegates referred to on p. 639.

It will be noticed that the resolutions ask for the appointment by Governments of one international commission, at first of a temporary character, but which, it is hoped, may become permanent, to deal with electric units.

Report of the Chamber of Delegates.

At the meeting on September 13, after discussion in the chamber, two subcommittees were appointed to deal with the questions of international electromagnetic units and of international standardisation respectively.

At the meeting on September 15 the following report of the committee on international electromagnetic units was accepted and unanimously adopted :—

Committee on International Electromagnetic Units.

The subcommittee appointed September 13 begs leave to suggest that the chamber of delegates should adopt the following report :—

It appears from papers laid before the International Electrical Congress and from the discussion that there are considerable discrepancies between the laws relating to electric units, or their interpretations, in the various countries represented, which, in the opinion of the chamber, require consideration with a view to securing practical uniformity.

Other questions bearing on nomenclature and the determination of units and standards have also been raised, on which, in the opinion of the chamber, it is desirable to have international agreement.

The chamber of delegates considers that these and similar questions could best be dealt with by an international commission representing the Governments concerned. Such a commission might in the first instance be appointed by those countries in which legislation on electric units has been adopted, and consist of (say) two members from each country.

Provision should be made for securing the adhesion of other countries prepared to adopt the conclusions of the commission.

The chamber of delegates approves such a plan, and requests its members to bring this report before their respective Governments.

It is hoped that if the recommendation of the chamber of delegates be adopted by the Governments represented, the commission may eventually become a permanent one.

The following report was also received and unanimously adopted from the committee on international standardisation :—

Committee of the Chamber of Delegates on International Standardisation.

The committee of the chamber of delegates on the standardisation of machinery begs to report as follows :—

That steps should be taken to secure the cooperation of the technical societies of the world by the appointment of a representative commission to consider the question of the standardisation of the nomenclature and ratings of electrical apparatus and machinery.

If the above recommendation meets the approval of the chamber of delegates, it is suggested by your committee that much of the work could be accomplished by correspondence in the first instance, and by the appointment of a general secretary to preserve the records and crystallise the points of disagreement, if any, which may arise between the methods in vogue in the different countries interested.

It is hoped that if the recommendation of the chamber of delegates be adopted, the commission may eventually become a permanent one.

At the meeting on September 16 the following resolutions were unanimously adopted :—

"That the delegates report the resolution of the chamber as to electrical units to their respective Governments, and that they be invited to communicate with Dr. S. W. Stratton (Bureau of Standards, Washington, D.C.) and Dr. R. T. Glazebrook (National Physical Laboratory, Bushy House, Teddington, Middlesex, England) as to the results of their report, or as to other questions arising out of the resolution."

"That the delegates report the resolution of the chamber as to the international standardisation to their respective technical societies, with the request that the societies take such action as they may deem best to give effect to the resolution, and that the delegates be requested to communicate the result of such action to Colonel R. E. B. Crompton, Chelmsford, England, and to the president of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, New York City."

THE NATIONAL ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.

THE narrative of the National Antarctic Expedition, related by Captain Scott to an audience of about seven thousand people at the Albert Hall on Monday, was the first account of the work of the expedition given to the Royal Geographical Society since the *Discovery* returned home. Captain Scott made a general statement of the work of the expedition, referring particularly to the various sledging journeys—nine of which were made in the first season and six in the second season—for exploration to the south, west, and east; but his remarks were chiefly of the nature of descriptions of a magnificent collection of photographs of scenes and incidents in the areas visited. These pictures themselves constitute a unique record of Antarctic conditions, and with the results of meteorological, magnetic, hydrographic, biological, and geological observations make the expedition most notable in the history of polar exploration. An exhibition of the photographs taken by Lieut. Skelton, water colour sketches and coloured drawings by Dr. E. A. Wilson, and other objects of interest connected with the voyage of the *Discovery*, is now open at the Bruton Galleries, 13 Bruton Street, Bond Street, W.

At the end of the lecture the chairman, Sir Clements Markham, K.C.B., on behalf of the Royal Geographical Society, presented a gold medal to Captain Scott and silver medals to the officers and men. The gold medal of the Geographical Society of Philadelphia for 1904 was presented to Captain Scott by the United States Ambassador in the name of that society. The medal bears on one side a medallion of Dr. Elisha Kane, their own discoverer, in whose honour the society was organised, and on the reverse this inscription :—"For eminent geographical research. *Per mare et terram.* The Philadelphia Geographical Society. Incorporated 1803. Awarded to Captain Scott in the year 1904."

As the scientific work of the expedition will be described at subsequent meetings of the Royal Geographical Society, Captain Scott only made incidental reference to it, and added little to what has already appeared in these columns (vol. lxix., p. 543, April 7). The following brief summary of the lecture is, however, of interest in showing some of the incidents and inquiries of the expedition.

The Antarctic area was divided into four quadrants, of which the Ross quadrant was allotted to the British expedition. It was there that Sir James Ross in 1840 discovered the sea that bore his name. But Sir James Ross was in a sailing ship, and only saw things dimly and in the distance. The geographical problem was therefore in brief to find out what lay to the east, to the west and to the south of what Ross had seen. In addition to the geographical problem, there were many scientific ones connected with a region so little known. The principal of these was magnetism, and the course taken by the *Discovery* was especially adapted for a magnetic survey.

Accompanied by two other members of the expedition, Captain Scott left the ship for a southern journey early in November, 1902, and on December 29 arrived at a point in latitude 80° 17′, when they were obliged to retrace their