# THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MATHE-MATICIANS IN PARIS.

At the Zürich Congress of 1897 it was agreed to hold the next congress in Paris in 1900, the French Mathematical Society being charged with the preparations. Circulars have been issued at intervals during the last eighteen months, calling the attention of mathematicians to the arrangements in progress. The congress was finally announced for August 6th–11th, and the opening general meeting was held in the Palais des Congrès, in the Exhibition grounds, at 9.30 on the morning of Monday, August 6th. M. Poincaré was elected President, M. Hermite, who of course was not present, being the *Président d'honneur.* The executive board was constituted as follows: vice-presidents, MM. Czuber (Vienna), Geiser (Zürich), Gordan (Erlangen), Greenhill (London), Lindelöf (Helsingfors), Lindemann (Munich), Mittag-Leffler (Stockholm), Moore (Chicago, absent), Tikhomandritzky (Kharkoff), Volterra (Turin), Zeuthen ( Copenhagen ) ; secretaries, MM. Bendixson (Stockholm), Capelli (Naples), Minkowski (Zürich), Ptaszycki (St. Petersburg), Whitehead (Cambridge, absent); general secretary, M. Duporcq (Paris). After the announcement of the officers of the sections and the names of the official delegates, and a very few words from the President, the two addresses of the day, both in French, were delivered by MM. M. Cantor (Heidelberg) and Volterra (Turin); each occupied about three-quarters of an hour.

M. CANTOR :   *Sur l'historiographie des mathématiques.*

During the century drawing to its close the character of mathematics has changed ; its devotees are now differentiated into geometers, analysts, algebraists, arithmeticians, astronomers, theoretical physicists, and historiographers. These last make no claim to advancing the science itself ; they press neither towards the arctic pole of the theory of functions, nor towards the antarctic pole of algebra ; they explore neither the steep surfaces of geometry nor the depths of differential equations. Their task is rather to draw up guides and charts, to indicate by what routes the results have been obtained, and what important points have been passed by without sufficient exploration. This work began with the History of Eudemus of Rhodes, B. C.