
DR. VON HELMHOLTZ ARRIVES.

The Celebrated German Scientist Will Attend the Electrical Congress.

Dr. von Helmholtz of the University of Berlin, who has been sent as a delegate by the German Government to the Electrical Congress in Chicago, arrived yesterday on the North German Lloyds steamship Lahn. He is the guest of Dr. Herman Knapp. Both gentlemen left for Chicago in the afternoon.

Dr. von Helmholtz holds a high position in the medical and scientific circles in Germany. He formerly occupied the Chair of Physics in the University of Heidelberg. He invented the ophthalmoscope and wrote a book on physical optics, which became a standard work. He is now regarded as the founder of modern scientific eye surgery. Later he was called to the University of Berlin, where he taught mathematical physics and made great researches in mathematical and scientific electricity.

It had been supposed that Dr. Helmholtz was going to make interesting bacteriological examinations of certain diseases, as consumption and cholera, in this country. He, however, said he had not conducted bacteriological researches for a long time. At the beginning of his researches he studied the difference between the propagation of animal life and the development of chemical processes.

Speaking of his present mission Dr. Helmholtz said that an effort would be made at the Electrical Congress to determine on the unit that should be used in going on with electrical measurements. At the Paris Congress in 1884, definitions of measurements were made, but it was too early to establish permanent definitions, as electric science and practice had not been sufficiently developed, and scientists had to be contented with rough approximations.

The congress proposed to the Governments to accept the definitions, but hitherto they have not been officially accepted, although most scientists accepted them and used the terms. At the last meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, held last Autumn in Edinburgh, some modifications to the Paris definitions were made.

Dr. Helmholtz was of the opinion that electricity could not be successfully used as a motive power for railroad trains and steamships.

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