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THE movement for the formation of an Imperial Scientific Union, which, in a nebulous shape, has been before the scientific world for two or three years, has recently made distinct progress, thanks to the efforts of Professor DAWSON, the president of the British Association. In February, desiring to give the proposal a definite stimulus, Professor DAWSON addressed a letter to Professor STOKES, president of the Royal Society. In this communication it was strongly urged that the initiative in the actual establishment of the Union should be taken by the distinguished organisation over which Professor STOKES presides. Discussing the subject from the geological point of view, in which he is more especially interested, Sir W. DAWSON expressed the opinion that Geological Societies and sections of societies throughout the empire would be willing in this matter to follow the lead of the Royal Society. It is probable that the remark applies equally to societies engaged in other branches of scientific work. At any rate it is a fact that copies of the letter having been forwarded to representative men in every part of the empire a large number of replies have been received of a favourable character. The replies express a warm interest in the scheme and a readiness to aid in carrying it out. The Royal Society of Canada appointed a Committee to consider the whole subject, and a favourable report was presented at a recent meeting at Ottawa. Professor DAWSON has also brought the matter before the Council of the British Association, and when he resigns at the Manchester meeting in August next the office he has so worthily filled, he will invite the Association, which by its meeting in Canada, and its proposed meeting in Australia, has assumed something of an Imperial character, to take a leading part in the promotion of the Imperial Scientific Union. Thus the scheme has made a clear advance, and it is probable that in the near future we shall see it carried out. It would confer many benefits upon science. Geological science, for instance, is sadly in need of a general agreement as to classification, nomenclature, and mapping. There are many difficulties in the way of such an agreement, largely, however, arising from differences of language and habits of thought. Sir J. DAWSON is hopeful that a union of British and English speaking geologists might lay a broad foundation of geological fact and representation which would "ultimately be adopted by other countries so far as local diversities and differences of language might permit." If the Imperial Union should be able to bring about such a result it would do much to promote the success of geological study. Benefits equally valuable might be anticipated in other branches of scientific work. After all, science is not national, or even Imperial, but universal. But a scientific union which would be world-wide is probably impracticable. The next best thing for us is an Imperial Union, which might, indeed, realise for English-speaking scientists and others many of the advantages of a still wider organisation.

