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## THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEODESY AND GEOPHYSICS

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IN times when there is a tendency to the nationalization of science it is well to realize that there are earth sciences relating to the physics of the earth as a whole—geophysics—which know no national boundaries. Though there are a number of international organizations which deal with these earth sciences from various view-points, there is only one which brings them together and treats them from the view-point of the world as a whole. This is the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, which has been in existence since 1919 and which grew out of other organizations which came into existence as early as 1862. This union is made possible through financial support from a large number of countries now numbering 37. In most cases the adhering body is not the government but the national committee on geophysics.

In the case of the United States the situation is

somewhat complicated. The National Research Council is the adhering body, but the national committee on geophysics is the American Geophysical Union. The latter as a whole is not part of the National Research Council, but its executive committee, made up of officers, chairmen of certain standing committees and certain ex-officio members from the Research Council itself, constitutes the Committee on Geophysics of the National Research Council.

The International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics is composed of seven associations, which are autonomous in scientific matters. These relate to geodesy, seismology, meteorology, terrestrial magnetism and electricity, physical oceanography, volcanology and scientific hydrology.

The American Geophysical Union is the American branch of the International Union. It has seven sec-

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