

# SCIENCE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, PUBLISHING THE  
OFFICIAL NOTICES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 1902.

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## THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NATURALISTS.

### THE CHICAGO MEETING.

THE meetings of the American Society of Naturalists and of the affiliated societies held last week in Chicago were not only important for the scientific work presented, but were also noteworthy as marking an epoch in the organization of science in America. The nineteenth century is regarded on all sides as the era of science. It was also an era of individualism in science, as in business and in political institutions. Historical developments do not usually occur to fit the calendar, but it has so happened that the first year of the present century has witnessed in America an extraordinary advance toward that organization of science and that cooperation among scientific men, which will probably be typical of the century.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science met last August in Denver, passing for the first time beyond the banks of the Mississippi, and becoming national in fact as well as in name. The Association also became at the Denver meeting truly representative, not only of the whole country, but also of all the sciences,

by its action in making its council the representative body for all our scientific societies. Equally important in this direction was the decision to meet next year at Washington in midwinter, making it possible for all the scientific societies to come together in a great national congress. The success of the Association in securing the adhesion of our leading institutions of learning to convocation week, thus obtaining an excellent time for the meetings, must also be regarded as an event of great moment.

As the American Association met for the first time in the western half of the country, so the American Society of Naturalists met this year for the first time west of the eastern seaboard. Joining with the naturalists of the Central and Western States the society became truly national in character. Equally important was the decision of the society to meet next winter at Washington in conjunction with the American Association—a step taken not only by eastern naturalists, but also by those of the Central and Western States. The congress next year at Washington will bring together the societies that have hitherto been divided between summer and winter meetings, and will thus represent the entire domain of science, as well as the whole country. It will be a meeting from which no scientific man can afford to absent himself, while its magnitude will give science a position before the national government, before our educational institutions and before the general public that it has never hitherto obtained.

The subject chosen for discussion at Chi-

cago was 'The Relation of the American Society of Naturalists to other Scientific Societies'—a topic obviously fitted to the occasion. The result of the discussion was most satisfactory in demonstrating the desire of those representing different sciences and different regions of the country to co-operate for the common good. The speakers from the Eastern States, Professors Minot, McGee and Cattell, tended to emphasize the importance of national union, whereas the speakers from the Central States, Professors Davenport, Trelease, Birge and Forbes, laid special weight on the need for local centers; but all agreed that we must have a strong central organization with a great annual meeting, while at the same time we must provide local and sectional meetings for those unable to attend the general congress, and also for the purpose of having groups not too large for adequate discussion. There was a unanimous sentiment that arrangements should be made by which the more local societies and meetings should not rival, but support the central organization. Committees were appointed by the American Society of Naturalists, and the Naturalists of the Central and Western States to cooperate in formulating plans for future meetings, and, as has been stated, the western naturalists decided to meet next year in Washington.

No less timely than the annual discussion, was the address of the president, Professor Sedgwick, on 'The Modern Subjection of Science and Education to Propaganda, printed in the present issue of SCIENCE. The usefulness of a society such

as the Naturalists is well indicated by an address of this character, stating in a semi-official way the consensus of opinion of scientific men on a topic of great concern to the whole people. For this address, and for his leading part in the arrangements for the Chicago meeting, Professor Sedgwick has the thanks of all naturalists. The lecture by Dr. Howard, like the president's address, was a model of what the occasion required. The subject 'International Work with Beneficial Insects' was of interest to all, and the treatment was neither technical nor trivial.

The local arrangements were admirable. The University of Chicago offered every possible facility for the meetings. President Harper welcomed the societies and entertained them at his house. The local committee, headed by Professors Davenport and Jordan, left nothing undone. The hotel headquarters were probably the best ever provided, and the dinner—attended by two hundred members, fifty more than at any previous meeting—was excellent, from the point of view both of the physiologist and of the psychologist. There were no speeches except the president's address, but after the official adjournment, most of those present lingered for an hour or two in pleasant social groups.

Three hundred and three scientific men registered, and there were doubtless some who omitted this formality. The meeting was the largest in the history of the Society, and nearly as large as the meetings of the American Association when it meets in the Central States. The attendance from the

Eastern States was very satisfactory, though the journey naturally prevented the attendance of many of the younger men. The Central States, including Iowa, Nebraska and Missouri, were very fully represented.

The number of papers announced on the preliminary programs of the affiliated societies—considerably increased at the time of the meetings—was as follows: American Morphological Society, 50; American Physiological Society, 43; Association of American Anatomists, 31; Society of American Bacteriologists, 35; Botanists of the Central and Western States, 28; American Psychological Association and Western Philosophical Association, 23; Section H, Anthropology, of the American Association, 16. Adding the addresses and discussions before the Naturalists, there were thus 244 scientific papers on the preliminary programs, probably the largest number presented at any meeting of the Naturalists, and equalling the number usually presented at the meetings of the American Association. Either the official proceedings or full reports of the meetings of the different scientific societies will be published in subsequent issues of this journal.

The Council of the American Association held a well-attended meeting. The permanent secretary, Dr. Howard, made a report showing that the number of members has greatly increased during the year, and that the finances are in good condition. The membership at the end of the year was over three thousand, and the initiation fees of the new members had more than defrayed the cost of sending *SCIENCE* to all

members. The committee on convocation week presented the report published in the issue of this journal for December 27, showing that both our institutions of learning and our societies are unanimously cooperating in setting aside for the meetings of learned and scientific societies the week in which the first day of January falls. A committee was appointed to consider the question of the duty imposed on scientific apparatus imported for educational institutions, a resolution was passed advocating a national health service, and other business was transacted. The most interesting feature of the meeting was perhaps the representation of Section K, Physiology and Experimental Medicine, by its first officers, Professors Welch and Lee. It was decided that the first meeting of the Section should be held in Washington a year hence, and that all scientific papers must be presented through one of the national societies devoted to the sciences falling within the scope of the Section.

While the affiliated scientific societies devoted to the biological sciences were meeting in Chicago, the other scientific societies that hold winter meetings were in session in different cities. The American Geological Society met in Rochester, the American Chemical Society in Philadelphia, the Astronomical and Astrophysical Society of America in Washington, the American Mathematical and Physical Societies and the eastern branch of the Society for Plant Morphology and Physiology in New York. So far as can be judged from the preliminary programs and from accounts that have reached us, the meetings were in all

cases successful, and this will doubtless be fully proved by the reports that will be published in this journal. It will, however, be a gain to the separate societies and especially to science as a whole when all our men of science gather in one congress as will be the case next year.

Only those who have attended the meetings of our scientific societies in recent years can fully appreciate the improvement that has taken place in the conduct of the meetings, the increase in the volume and value of scientific work, and the friendly and cordial relations almost universal among scientific men. We are entitled to enjoy great satisfaction in the advances made by the Denver and Chicago meetings, and to look forward with sure anticipation of a further advance in the great meeting to be held during convocation week next winter at Washington.

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*THE MODERN SUBJECTION OF SCIENCE  
AND EDUCATION TO PROPAGANDA.*

ONE of the sad pages in the history of science and education is that which relates how, on the death of Alexander the Great, the teacher of his youth, the much greater Aristotle, rightly regarded by the Middle Age as the 'master of those who know' when more than sixty years old was driven from Athens into exile by a patriotic propaganda of the anti-Macedonians. A darker and a bloody page tells how Hypatia of Alexandria, the beautiful and learned daughter of Theon, was cruelly and brutally murdered in a Christian church in the year 415 of our era as a victim of a fanatical propaganda against paganism, condoned, if not conducted, by the Christian Archbishop Cyril, Patriarch of Alexandria. Copernicus hesitated long before publish-