

SCIENCE

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SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION AND
PROGRESS.*

CONTENTS:

*The American Association for the Advancement
of Science:—*

Scientific Investigation and Progress:

PRESIDENT IRA REMSEN..... 1

The Twentieth Century Botany: BEVERLY T.
GALLOWAY 11

*Vitalism and Mechanism in Biology and
Medicine:* DR. S. J. MELZER..... 18

Scientific Books:—

Davison's Mammalian Anatomy: J. P. MCM. 22

Societies and Academies:—

The Philosophical Society of Washington:
CHARLES K. WEED. *Geological Society of
Washington:* ALFRED H. BROOKS. *Chemical
Society of Washington:* A. SEIDELL. *Biologi-
cal Society of Washington:* F. A. LUCAS.
Anthropological Society of Washington:
DR. WALTER HOUGH..... 23

Discussion and Correspondence:—

*The Animal Parasite supposed to be the
Cause of Yellow Fever:* DR. H. W. ROBINSON 29

Shorter Articles:—

The New Cosmical Meteorology: DR. FRANK
H. BIGELOW. *Horticultural Varieties of
Common Crops:* DR. W. J. SPILLMAN..... 30

Recent Zoopaleontology:—

Field Expeditions during the Past Season:
H. F. O..... 35

Botanical Notes:—

*The Missouri Botanical Garden; An Ele-
mentary Journal of Mycology; Some Recent
Papers on Systematic Botany; Chemistry
of Plant and Animal Life:* PROFESSOR
CHARLES E. BESSEY..... 36

The Carnegie Institution..... 37

Scientific Notes and News..... 38

University and Educational News..... 40

At the weekly services of many of our churches it is customary to begin with the reading of a verse or two from the Scriptures for the purpose, I suppose, of putting the congregations in the proper state of mind for the exercises which are to follow. It seems to me we may profit by this example, and accordingly I ask your attention to Article I. of the Constitution of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which reads thus: 'The objects of the association are, by periodical and migratory meetings, to promote intercourse between those who are cultivating science in different parts of America, to give stronger and more general impulse and more systematic direction to scientific research, and to procure for the labors of scientific men increased facilities and a wider usefulness.'

The first object mentioned, you will observe, is 'to promote intercourse between those who are cultivating science in different parts of America'; the second is 'to give a stronger and more general impulse and more systematic direction to scientific research'; and the third is 'to procure for the labors of scientific men increased facilities and a wider usefulness.' Those who are familiar with the history of the association are well aware that it has served its purposes admirably, and I am inclined to think that those who have been

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* Address of the retiring president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, St. Louis meeting, December 28, 1903.