

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.
SECTION C.

OWING to the large number of papers annually presented at the joint meeting of the American Chemical Society and Section C and the utter impossibility of reading them all with any hope of a proper appreciation of their contents, a radical change has been adopted in the arrangement of the program for this winter's meeting.

The time to be devoted to papers has been divided about equally between general meetings and meetings of subsections and the subsections have each been put in charge of a leader of wide reputation in the special department over which he presides. It is hoped thereby to arouse an increased interest in the hearers and particularly to stimulate discussion. Also it is hoped to increase the social intercourse and acquaintance of chemists who are working along the same lines of investigation.

At the same time the advantage of the general session is not to be lost sight of and the leaders of the subsection will recommend special papers of broad and general interest from among those presented to them to the sectional committee for a place on the general program. Details will be left to the subsections where they may be adequately discussed.

The leaders chosen for this year are: Dr. Arthur A. Noyes, physical and electro-chemistry; Dr. Jas. Lewis Howe, inorganic chemistry; Dr. James F. Norris, organic chemistry; Dr. Edward Hart, industrial chemistry; Dr. William P. Mason, sanitary, physiological and agricultural chemistry.

Abstracts of papers intended for the meeting may be mailed to me or may be sent direct to the leaders of the subsections. But one program is to be printed for this meeting, and to insure insertion all abstracts should be sent in time to reach me, directly or indirectly, before December 10.

CHARLES LATHROP PARSONS,
Secretary Section C.

DURHAM, N. H., November 9, 1904.

TRIMMED COPIES OF SCIENCE.

AT a recent meeting of the committee on the policy of the association, it was recommended 'That the publishers of SCIENCE be requested to announce prominently that cut copies will be sent to members who request it.' Trimmed copies of SCIENCE are now supplied to the news companies and to all subscribers who express a preference for them. Those who prefer trimmed copies should address a postal card to The Macmillan Company, 66 Fifth Avenue, New York City, and they will be thereafter sent.

Some subscribers to SCIENCE may wonder why all copies are not trimmed. It is not to save the cost, which is trifling, probably not more than the saving in postage. There are two reasons. One is that the copies can be bound to better advantage when they are untrimmed. The other appeals with unequal force to different people. It is largely a matter of tradition and association. The best journals and magazines have in the past been untrimmed, while the cheaper and more transient publications have been trimmed. An untrimmed journal looks to some of us as if it were ready for the binder and the library shelf, a trimmed copy as if it were half way to the waste paper basket. The larger margins look better, and the uneven edges represent the difference between objects that are hand-made and those that are machine-made. For the same reasons, SCIENCE is not wired, but sewn, though the cost is a little more. *Nature* has recently been trimmed and wired, the convenience being gained at a certain intangible loss of dignity and authority. The utilitarian will doubtless prevail over the esthetic in the end, and the argument from tradition and association will gradually lose its force. But SCIENCE is reluctant to break with its past and with a long literary tradition. Such conservatism may seem unreasonable, but it is at least harmless, so long as every one who wishes can receive trimmed copies.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

PROFESSOR E. RAY LANKESTER, director of the Natural History Museum, London, has