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.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 1906.

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THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

THE POPULAR CONCEPTION OF THE SCI-ENTIFIC MAN AT THE PRESENT DAY.

WE are so accustomed to hear reports on the progress of science that we have almost ceased to ask ourselves what we mean by What is or is not progress deprogress. pends of course on the point of view. Some are so far ahead of the majority that they can not see how much progress is made by those behind them; others are so far in the rear that they can not distinguish what is going on ahead of them. also admit that there are different directions in which progress may be made. You have all seen the agile crab and been surprised to find how rapidly he gets over the ground, although he never seems to go ahead, but to scramble off sideways. crab, perhaps, wonders why men are so stupid as to try to move straight forward. It is a popular belief, but, not being a zoologist, I am not prepared to youch for its correctness, that the squid progresses backward, discharging a large amount of ink. One might perhaps ask: Is the progress of science sometimes like that of the crab. rapid but not straight forward, or, like the squid, may not the emission of a large amount of printer's ink really conceal a backward movement? So far as the accumulation of facts is concerned, there is a steady onward progress in science and it is only in the unwise or premature theorizing on known or supposed facts that science

¹ Address of the president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, New Orleans meeting, 1905.