

*THE SECTIONAL MEETINGS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE*

SECTION A—Mathematics and Astronomy—will meet for organization on Monday morning, December 28, immediately after the first general session of the association. Monday afternoon will be devoted to astronomical papers of general interest, beginning with the address of the retiring vice-president, E. O. Lovett, president of the new William M. Rice Institute for the Advancement of Literature, Science and Art, of Houston, Texas. The subject of this address is "On the problem of three bodies." On Tuesday the section will hold two sessions which will be devoted exclusively to astronomical papers.

As the American Mathematical Society will hold its annual meeting in affiliation with the association, all the mathematical papers are expected to appear on its program. The sessions of this society will begin on Wednesday morning and extend through Thursday. The retiring president, Professor White, of Vassar College, will give an address on "Bezont's theory of resultants and its influence on geometry," which will be of general interest to scientific men. The complete program of this society and that of Section A of the association will be distributed on Monday morning.

It is hoped that many of the astronomers may attend the meetings of the American Mathematical Society and that many members of this society may avail themselves of the opportunity to listen to the astronomical papers to be read before Section A on the days immediately preceding those of their own special meetings. Titles and abstracts for the Mathematical Society program should be sent to Professor F. N. Cole, Columbia University, while those intended for Section A may be sent to the secretary, Professor G. A. Miller, University of Illinois. Abstracts should be in a form immediately available for publication, and should be accompanied by detailed explanations in case the importance of the results can not be readily determined from the abstract alone.

The usual arrangement for joint meetings

of Section B and the Physical Society for the reading of papers will doubtless be made. The last annual meeting at Chicago was a great success and a still larger one is expected at Baltimore. The presiding officer of Section B is Professor Karl E. Guthe, of the State University of Iowa, and the address of the retiring vice-president will be given by Professor Dayton C. Miller, of the Case School of Applied Science. It is probable that one session will be devoted to a program of general interest to all scientists.

The program of Section D—Mechanical Science and Engineering—includes papers by the following: G. M. Brill, Chicago, Ill., L. F. Moody and A. M. Greene, Jr., Troy, N. Y., J. F. Hayford, Washington, D. C., W. G. Raymond, Iowa City, Iowa, N. C. Ricker, Urbana, Ill., J. J. Flather, A. E. Haynes and B. F. Groat, Minneapolis, Minn., C. M. Woodward, St. Louis, Mo., A. H. Blanchard, Providence, R. I., G. W. Bissell, East Lansing, Mich., and the possibility of three or four other papers. The vice-presidential address will be given by Professor O. H. Landreth, of Union College, Schenectady, N. Y.

The meeting of Section E—Geology and Geography—this year will be one of special interest to all geologists and geographers. The president of the association is Professor T. C. Chamberlin, one of our most distinguished geologists. The vice-president of Section E has prepared a most interesting symposium on correlation. The Geological Society of America and the Association of American Geographers will both meet in affiliation with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and it is proposed to hold a joint meeting of the three organizations to discuss their mutual relations, in order that the officers of the three may be able to plan future meetings for the reading of papers and for field excursions, so that the needs and wishes of all geologists and geographers may be met as fully as possible.

The sessions of Section G—Botany—will convene under the vice-presidency of Dr. H. M. Richards, in the rooms of the botanical department of the Johns Hopkins University,

and will alternate with the sessions of the Botanical Society of America, as at the Chicago meeting. The address of the retiring vice-president, Dr. C. E. Bessey, will be on "The Phyletic Idea in Taxonomy."

Section L—Education—will hold five sessions, three independent sessions and two joint sessions. The topics and speakers for the independent sessions are: 1. The Relation of the Bureau of Education to the Other Educational Work of the Country, President Harry Pratt Judson, Professor Edward C. Elliott, Superintendent E. C. Moore. 2. American College Education and Life, Professors Josiah Royce, Wm. North Rice, President Wm. L. Bryan and others. 3. The Relation of Governments to Education (address of the retiring vice-president), Hon. E. E. Brown, U. S. Commissioner of Education. The first of these sessions will be held on Tuesday, December 29, at 2 P.M.; the second on Wednesday, December 30, at 2 P.M., and the third on Thursday, December 31, at 3 P.M.

One of the joint sessions will be held on Tuesday, December 29, at 10 A.M. with the American Federation of Teachers of the Mathematical and the Natural Sciences at which the topic: The Problems of Science Teaching will be discussed by Presidents R. S. Woodward and Ira Remsen, and Professors John M. Coulter, N. M. Fennemann, George F. Stradling and William T. Campbell. The other joint session will be held on Wednesday, December 30, at 10 A.M., with the American Psychological Association, at which meeting reports of experimental work in educational psychology will be presented and discussed by a number of investigators in this field.

*THE ANNUAL DUES OF MEMBERS OF THE  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE*

The permanent secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science begs to call the attention of members to the fact that the annual dues (three dollars) for the year beginning January the first should now be sent to him. The financial year of the association now ends on October 31, and

the dues for the following calendar year should be paid as soon as possible after that date. The dues are so small and the membership of the association has become so large that the sending of statements involves an expenditure of time and money, which, so far as possible, should be saved. The office of the permanent secretary must be removed to the place of meeting at Baltimore during the last week in December, and the dues should be paid prior to that time. If they are not paid before January 1, there are serious complications in regard to the sending of *SCIENCE* to members. The association can not make itself responsible for sending *SCIENCE* to those whose dues are in arrears, as there are some who may regard the non-payment of dues as equivalent to resignation from the association. The back numbers will be sent to those who pay their dues after January the first upon application to the publishers and the payment of postage at the rate of one cent a copy, so far as the edition permits, but the publishers do not guarantee that this will be done. Should the edition threaten to become exhausted, it will be necessary for those who wish to keep their sets of *SCIENCE* complete to pay for the numbers at the rate of fifteen cents each.

The permanent secretary takes this occasion to remind members of the desirability of assuming life membership in the association. By the payment of fifty dollars at the present time, all future trouble and expense is avoided. The fees of life members are ultimately transferred to the permanent fund, the income of which is used exclusively for the encouragement of research, and those who assume life membership thus contribute materially to the advancement of science.

L. O. HOWARD,  
WASHINGTON, D. C. *Permanent Secretary*

*SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS*

It is announced that the Nobel prizes for 1908 are to be awarded as follows: For chemistry, Professor Ernest Rutherford, director of the physical laboratories of the University of Manchester, England; for literature, Algernon Charles Swinburne; for physics, Dr. Max