

# SCIENCE

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## THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE<sup>1</sup>

### ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT

THIRTY-ONE years have passed since the British Association met in Sheffield, and the interval has been marked by exceptional progress. A town has become a city, the head of its municipality a lord mayor; its area has been enlarged by more than one fifth; its population has increased from about 280,000 to 479,000. Communication has been facilitated by the construction of nearly thirty-eight miles of electric tramways for home service and of new railways, including alternative routes to Manchester and London. The supplies of electricity, gas and water have more than kept pace with the wants of the city. The first was just being attempted in 1879; the second has now twenty-three times as many consumers as in those days; the story<sup>2</sup> of the third has been told by one who knows it well, so that it is enough for me to say your water supply can not be surpassed for quantity and quality by any in the kingdom. Nor has Sheffield fallen behind other cities in its public buildings. In 1897 your handsome town hall was opened by the late Queen Victoria; the new post office, appropriately built and adorned with material from almost local sources, was inaugurated less than two months ago. The Mappin Art Gallery commemorates the munificence of those whose name it bears, and fosters that love of the beautiful which Ruskin sought to awaken by his gen-

<sup>1</sup> Sheffield, 1910.

<sup>2</sup> "History and Description of Sheffield Water Works," W. Terrey, 1908.

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