

13. Nebraska	3,459
14. Northwestern	3,438
15. Syracuse	3,307
16. Yale	3,224
17. Missouri	2,596
18. Texas	2,539
19. Kansas	2,265
20. Indiana	2,154
22. Iowa	1,967
21. Tulane	2,040
23. Stanford	1,648
24. Princeton	1,543
25. Western Reserve	1,331
26. Cincinnati	1,324
27. Johns Hopkins	1,057
28. Virginia	804

RUDOLF TOMBO, JR.

CONVOCATION WEEK MEETINGS

I HAVE read with interest two recent communications¹ in *SCIENCE* relative to the meeting place of the different scientific societies, with which I am heartily in accord. To me the only valid objection to holding these meetings at the time and place of the American Association is the tendency of the different meetings to conflict with one another. This difficulty should be to a great extent obviated if the executive committees of related societies (for example, zoologists, naturalists, anatomists) were to jointly arrange the program for their societies, allowing this program if necessary to include the day preceding or following those on which the general association meets. Certainly this difficulty was not obviated last year when the three societies above named met at Princeton, the meetings of zoologists and anatomists distinctly conflicting with each other. On the other hand, the great objections, as it seems to me, of holding these meetings at different places and at the same time is the entire loss of the benefits of the general association by those who wish to attend the sectional meetings. Speaking personally, I was much disappointed to miss the Sigma Xi convention at Washington last year in order to attend the zoologists' meeting at Princeton. To one living at some distance

¹ Morse, Max, *SCIENCE*, December 22, 1911.
Reese, A. M., *SCIENCE*, January 12, 1912.

from the heart of things a trip to the annual meetings involves a considerable sacrifice of time and money, and he feels like getting the largest return possible for such sacrifice, which was not possible for all of us with the meetings arranged as they were last year.

If the present policy of aloofness on the part of certain societies be deemed desirable in future, might it not at least be possible to arrange the sectional meetings so as not to conflict with those of the general association?

In the case of a society with eastern and central branches (viz., zoologists), where the majority of the members belong to the former branch, I believe it would be fair to all to hold two eastern meetings to each one in the central district, such meetings to be joint meetings of the two branches. Separate meetings by each branch seem to me undesirable, at least if such meetings are held at the same time, as was the case with the zoologists in 1910.

R. T. YOUNG

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THE TIDAL MACHINE

TO THE EDITOR OF *SCIENCE*: The undersigned desires to say that the machine described in the issue of this journal of February 23, 1912, under the name of "The Harris Tidal Machine" is the product of one of the bureaus of this government, the Coast and Geodetic Survey. The officials of that bureau, who are well acquainted with all the details of its development, from first inception to final completion, named it "The Coast and Geodetic Survey Tide Predicting Machine." Under that name it was described briefly in the *Journal* of the Washington Academy of Sciences, July 19, 1911, and more fully, with illustrations, in *Engineering News* of July 20, 1911.

E. G. FISCHER

WASHINGTON, D. C.,
February 26, 1912

REPLYING to Mr. Fischer's note concerning my article on "The Harris Tidal Machine" published in this journal on February 23,