

SCIENCE

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THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

SECTION F—IS IT WORTH WHILE?

THE first meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science was held in September, 1848. The society was not then organized into sections, but a committee on organization was empowered to "divide up sections" or "combine sections" as it deemed advisable.

The *Proceedings* of the Association indicate that for many years this committee was at least an active one, for the particular organization into sections and subsections of any one meeting rarely survived for another meeting.

At the sixth meeting, held in August, 1851, the following sections were recognized: A—Mathematics and Physics, B—Chemistry and Mineralogy, C—Geology and Physical Geography, D—Natural History, including Physiology, E—Ethnology and Geography, and F—Mechanical Science.

At the seventh meeting held in July, 1853, botany and zoology were recognized as subsections of Section B, which had been changed from "Natural History including Physiology" to "Chemistry and Natural History." The next year zoology was conspicuous by its absence, but two zoological papers were read in the subdivision designated "Physiology." The year following "Physiology" was omitted and "Zoology" was reinstated. Thus zoology, now prominent and now not in evidence, drifted in

¹ Address of the vice-president and chairman of Section F—Zoology—American Association for the Advancement of Science, Cleveland, December, 1912.