

SCIENCE

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THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE¹

SCIENCE AND CIVILIZATION

THE American Association for the Advancement of Science is sixty-seven years old. It has held annual meetings successively in the eastern centers of population and education, from Boston to Denver and from New Orleans to Toronto. We are today opening the first meeting of the association west of the Rocky Mountains. It gives a more correct impression to note that the Denver meeting of 1901 and the San Francisco meeting are the only ones thus far held west of the Mississippi River cities—in the western three fifths of the United States. The San Francisco meeting has been appointed with the double purpose of encouraging the development of science in the Pacific region and of uniting with other organizations in celebrating the completion of the Panama Canal.

There could scarcely be a better illustration of the relations of science to civilization than the canal supplies. This great waterway has been constructed, not so much by the potency of our national wealth in gold, not so much by the wonderful engineering and administrative ability which we all delight to honor, as by the victory of pure and applied science over the sources of malarial and yellow fever infection. Three centuries of research in the various branches of biology, as pure sciences, inaugurated by Vesalius's anatomical dissections (about 1530), by Harvey's discovery of the circulation of the blood (about 1616), by Hooker's introduction of the

¹ Address of the President, San Francisco meeting, August 2, 1915.