

SCIENCE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1915

THE IMPORTANCE OF GEOGRAPHICAL RE-
SEARCH¹

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THIS year, when the British Association is holding its meeting in times of the utmost gravity, the changed conditions which have been brought about by this war must occupy the attention of all the sections to a greater or less extent, and our attention is being called to many fields in which our activities have been less marked or more restricted than they might have been, and where more serious study is to be desired. The same introspection may be usefully exercised in geography, for although that branch of knowledge has undoubtedly advanced in a remarkable degree during the last few decades, we have certainly allowed some parts of the subject to receive inadequate attention as compared with others, and the necessity for more serious study of many of its problems is abundantly evident.

Nor is the present occasion ill adapted to such an examination of our position, for when the British Association last met in this city, now twenty-eight years ago, the president of this section, General Sir Charles Warren, urged in his address the importance of a full recognition of geography in education on the grounds that a thorough knowledge of it is required in every branch of life, and is nowhere more important than in diplomacy, politics and administration.

Matters have certainly advanced greatly since that time, and a much fuller appreci-

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

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