ment of Science, held in Washington on April 22, 1913, shortly after President Wilson's installation, the following resolution, proposed by Mr. Cattell, was passed:

WHEREAS, It is eminently desirable that scientific men especially skilled in their departments be appointed as heads of the scientific bureaus of the government, therefore,

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to communicate to the President of the United States that it is the opinion of the council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science that a scientific man skilled in meteorology should be selected as the Chief of the Weather Bureau.

The committee waited on the president who requested the secretary of agriculture to consult with the committee of the association. The secretary of agriculture at that time stated that no appointment in the department of agriculture had been made or would be made for political reasons, or even be given to a man who sought the office. The committee of the American Association called the attention of the secretary to the fact that the National Academy of Sciences is by law the scientific adviser of the government, and the president, as far as we are aware for the first time since the law was enacted in 1863, asked the advice of the academy on an appointment. A committee of experts of the academy recommended three men skilled in meteorology and fitted for the office of chief of the Weather Bureau, and one of these was appointed by the president. In like manner the commissioner of fisheries was appointed from candidates proposed by the American Society of Naturalists and the American Zoological Society. In other cases President Wilson has asked and followed the advice of scientific bodies and scientific men, and his record in this respect is certainly better than that of any of his recent predecessors. We can only hope that he himself or Mr. Hughes, as the case may be, will still further improve this record in the course of the next four years.—*The Scientific Monthly.*

PRESIDENT WILSON'S SCIENTIFIC APPOINTMENTS

CANDIDATE HUGHES has publicly charged President Wilson with having made appointments to scientific departments of the government without consideration of the scientific fitness of the appointees and to the detriment of the public service. The charge is so unfair and untrue that it deserves to be repudiated by all who know the facts with regard to any of these appointments, as it has been denounced already by Secretary Redfield and Acting Secretary Sweet with respect to the superintendent of the Coast and Geodetic Survey.

The fact is that no president within recent years at least has taken so much pains to obtain the advice of scientific societies and of scientific men regarding appointments to scientific positions within the government; and none has more faithfully followed that advice, as is shown, for example, in his appointment of the present commissioner of fisheries, the chief of the Weather Bureau, the chief chemist of the Department of Agriculture, etc.

The contrast between President Wilson's attitude in this respect and that of some of his predecessors is very striking. In 1898 the American Society of Naturalists and the American Society of Zoologists appointed a committee to wait upon President McKinley and urge him to appoint as commissioner of fisheries some trained scientific man who should have a practical knowledge of the fish and fisheries of our coasts. President McKinley told the committee that he was not free to consider their recommendation since the place had already been promised to one who, as it turned out, was not scientifically trained and whose only known qualification was that he was a deserving Republican.

In 1913 the same societies passed a similar resolution and sent a similar committee to President-elect Wilson upon the same subject. Mr. Wilson thanked the committee for bringing the matter to his attention and asked for recommendations of persons for the position. The committee considered the matter carefully and after consulting with various members of the societies and with others interested in our fisheries recommended three persons in order of preference and, although it is known that much pressure was brought to bear upon Pres-

ident Wilson to continue the custom of his immediate predecessors of appointing the commissioner of fisheries for partisan rather than for public services, he appointed the man who stood first in the committee's recommendations.

Again, in appointing the chief of the Weather Bureau, President Wilson took unusual means to secure the best available man by requesting the National Academy of Sciences to recommend a suitable person for the position. Although the Academy was established by Act of Congress in 1863 to serve as adviser to the government in matters of science, and although since that time it has had among its members the most distinguished scientific men in America, this was the first time that a president of the United States ever asked the Academy for advice as to a scientific appointment. Also, in the selection of the chief chemist of the Department of Agriculture and of the chief of the Bureau of Mines, the president sought and acted upon the best scientific advice which he could get. In no one of these cases did he inquire about the political affiliation of the person recommended.

In many other matters President Wilson has shown an unusual and unprecedented desire to consult the leading scientific bodies of this country on subjects of science and a marked degree of independence in following their advice, sometimes in spite of much political or personal opposition. Through his individual action the question of the best means of abating the slides at Panama was referred to the National Academy of Sciences, and at his request a committee was appointed to investigate and report upon this subject; the names of the committee were a sufficient guarantee that their work would be well done, and their report, which was promptly made, will probably be of inestimable value to the nation. Quite recently the President requested the National Academy of Sciences to take the initiative in bringing into cooperation existing governmental, educational, industrial and other research organizations with the object of promoting national welfare and of providing for national defense. As a result there has been established through the cooperation of national scientific societies, research institutes, universities and the scientific departments of the government a National Research Council, as described by Dr. George E. Hale in a letter to *The Times* on August 1, which should be of great and lasting value to this nation.

Under these circumstances it does not seem fitting that scientific men should allow to go unchallenged the statement that the scientific work of the government has been degraded by President Wilson's appointments or the implication that his interest in that work has been that of a partisan.—*Edwin G. Conklin of Princeton University in the New York Times.*

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Analytical Mechanics. By H. M. Dadourian, M.A., Ph.D. Second edition, revised and enlarged.

In his second edition of his "Analytical Mechanics," Dr. Dadourian has made a number of changes and additions. What he assumes as the fundamental principle of mechanics he now calls the "Action Principle" which is a modified form of what he formerly called "The Principle of Action and Reaction." "A new chapter has been added which is devoted to the equilibrium of framed structures and graphic statics." "The number of diagrams has been increased by one hundred and thirty, and about three hundred practical problems have been added." Other smaller changes have been made. In all the book has been enlarged by about seventy additional pages.

In his first edition, the author states that the book "is based upon a course of lectures and recitations which the author has given during the last few years to the junior class of the electrical department of the Sheffield Scientific School." "In order to make the book suitable for the purposes of more than one class of students a larger number of special topics are discussed than any one class will probably take up. But these are so arranged as to permit the omission of one or more without breaking the logical continuity