for measuring the relative position of objects at these distances. Thus an animal with lateral vision, when moving forward, has a stereoscopic view of the landscape, owing to the excessive relative displacement of objects. A person looking out of a side window of a moving railway car sees the landscape in the same way.

This power of measuring surrounding distances due to lateral vision is important in its bearing on the "sense of direction" problem because the orientation of a bird with respect to *points of reference about it* depends on the subconscious summing up of the space relations immediately about the bird as it moves here and there through the woods or through any familiar or unfamiliar region. This subconscious summation on the part of the bird is greatly aided by any means which measures the relative distances of minor reference points in its immediate vicinity as it passes on its way.

The writer is not aware that the power that animals having lateral vision seem to possess of measuring the distances in their surroundings has been pointed out hitherto. That there is such advantage over frontal vision, as in man, appears to be evident. In any case, the relation of lateral vision to near-by orientation has not been properly emphasized. This short paper is a part of an investigation on "sense of direction" in animals, which has been aided by the Herman Fund of the New York Academy of Sciences.

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THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE—SECTION B, PHYSICS

The biggest and the best of the several meetings the American Physical Society holds every year is always that one held jointly with Section B of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. There are of course very few active members of this section who are not also active members of the Physical Society and therefore it might seem that there could be no advantage in holding joint meetings. Indeed it might even be argued that the Physical Society had better meet at some other place where there were none but physicists—no distracting reminders of other sciences and other interests.

But, as just stated, the uniform experience is strongly in favor of the joint meetings. And one thing that makes the annual meeting so delightful and so profitable is the frequent, even if more or less casual, conversations with scientists whose chief interests are in other subjects—delightful because of the charming acquaintances formed and profitable because of the new interrelations one is quite certain to see between his own and other sciences.

The recent meeting at Columbus, Ohio, at which President R. A. Millikan, of the Physical Society and Vice-president E. P. Lewis, of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, alternately presided, was one of these pleasant and profitable occasions.

The address of the retiring vice-president of the association and chairman of Section B, Dr. Anthony Zeleny, was a well-deserved tribute to the designer and the maker of instruments of precision upon whom advancement in science so greatly depends. It appeared in full in Science for February 11.

The symposium—always a delightful feature of these joint meetings—was on the behavior of substances at very high pressures. Dr. P. W. Bridgman gave a most interesting summary of the numerous discoveries he has made of the properties of substances at enormously heavy pressures—properties stranger than fiction and of great importance.

At present the officers of Section B are as follows:

Vice-president and Chairman of the Section: H. A. Bumstead, Yale University.

Secretary: W. J. Humphreys, Washington, D. C.

Member of Council: A. L. Foley, University of Indiana.

Sectional Committee: Vice-president, San Francisco and Columbus, E. P. Lewis; Vice-president, New York, H. A. Bumstead; Secretary, W. J. Humphreys; Preceding Secretary, Alfred D. Cole; T. C. Mendenhall, one year; Dayton C. Miller, two years; George W. Stewart, three years; Robert R. Tatnall, four years; W. S. Franklin, five years. *Ex-officio:* R. A. Millikan, President, American Physical Society; Alfred D. Cole, Secretary, American Physical Society.

Member of General Committee: G. B. Pegram, Columbia University.

W. J. Humphreys,
Secretary