



FIG. 1.

fluence on the internal properties of the atom and is solely a mass effect. All the intra-atomic characteristics, both chemical and physical, are dependent on details of atomic structure, on subatomic structural isomerism, which requires much further elucidation. There is nothing improbable about this view. Yet Piccard's suggestion by no means requires it. Until this further consequence of the theory of isotopes is experimentally verified Piccard's hypothetical actino-uranium will serve just as well if we assume its atomic weight to be 239 or 241 and thus avoid this theoretical elaboration.

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## THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

### MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE ON POLICY

The committee met at the Cosmos Club, Washington, at 5.35 P.M., Monday, April 22, 1918, with Mr. Nichols in the chair and Messrs. Noyes, Woodward, Humphreys, Cattell, Ward and Howard also present. The minutes of the meeting of December 30, 1917, were read and approved. The permanent secretary reported concerning the present condition of the membership and a brief discussion followed on general conditions.

The election of Mr. John Barrett as a fellow and as vice-president of Section I was con-

firmed. Dr. Aleš Hrdlička was elected as vice-president of Section H.

On motion, the sum of four thousand (4,000) dollars was appropriated to the committee on grants, with the suggestion that the committee use this amount with especial care. On motion, the treasurer was authorized to invest spare funds in government Liberty Bonds, the amount reported by him being in the neighborhood of one thousand (1,000) dollars.

After extended discussion as to the time and place of the next meeting, in which letters from President Lowell, of Harvard, and President Maclaurin, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, were read, and in which the permanent secretary reported the result of his visit to Boston to consult with leading Boston members, it was resolved that the place of the next meeting be changed from Boston to Baltimore, provided satisfactory arrangements can be made with the authorities of Johns Hopkins University.

On motion, it was resolved that a subcommittee be appointed to consult and report on a general plan for the next meeting. The permanent secretary and Messrs. Humphreys and J. C. Merriam were appointed as members of this committee, with authority to consult with other individuals and to add to the committee if found desirable.

A letter from Dr. S. A. Curtis was read relative to the Emergency Council of Education and the permanent secretary was authorized to ask Dr. E. F. Buchner to represent the Association at the next meeting of that organization.

The requests of the Seismological Society of America and the Optical Society of America for admission to affiliation were acted upon favorably and it was resolved that non-members of these societies be admitted to the Association during this year without the payment of the entrance fee.

On motion, it was resolved that the New Orleans Academy of Sciences be admitted to affiliation with the association or, if the Academy prefers, the permanent secretary was authorized to arrange for its establishment as a local branch of the association.

On motion, the permanent secretary was authorized to accept for the association "organization membership" in the American Metric Association and to pay the \$10 fee for the association.

After some discussion, the permanent secretary was authorized to have the composition of the responsible editorial committee of the journal *SCIENCE* completed by the substitution of the newly elected vice-presidents for those of last year and to add the name of Henry B. Ward to the representatives of Section K, and the permanent secretary was authorized to have this list manifolded to send to members who request information concerning the composition of the committee.

On motion, the committee resolved that the committee on grants consist of nine (9) members to be elected by the council at the next annual meeting: three for one year, three for a term of two years, and three for a term of three years; thereafter, three members to be elected annually for those whose terms expire, with the proviso that not all of the three shall be reelected, and that the council shall designate the chairman and the secretary of the committee.

At 9.15 P.M., the committee adjourned, to meet at the call of the chairman, with the understanding that it may be desirable to hold the next meeting during the third week of November at Baltimore in case emergency does not demand an earlier meeting.

L. O. HOWARD,  
*Secretary*

#### SECTION M—AGRICULTURE

THIS Section held two sessions at the Pittsburgh meeting, in Thaw Hall, University of Pittsburgh, one on the afternoon of December 28 and the other on the morning of December 29, 1917. At the latter session the address of the retiring Vice-president of the Section, Dr. W. H. Jordan, was presented, the subject being "The Future of Agricultural Education and Research in the United States."<sup>1</sup>

The feature of the session on the afternoon of December 28 was a symposium on "Factors Concerned in an Increased Agricultural Production."

<sup>1</sup> *SCIENCE*, N. S., Vol. XLVII., p. 125.