

ciety. An invitational program has been arranged for Wednesday afternoon as follows:

C. E. McClung: "The work of the National Research Council in relation to zoology."

J. T. Patterson: "Studies in Polyembryony."

C. H. Eigenmann: "Faunal areas on the Pacific slope of South America."

V. E. Shelford: "Physiological life histories of terrestrial animals."

The entire program is in conjunction with Section F of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The address of Professor William Patten, of Dartmouth College, the retiring vice-president of Section F, will be given following a zoology dinner on Wednesday evening, December 31. The subject is: "The Message of the Biologist." Following the address, moving pictures taken on his recent Barbadoes-Antigua Expedition will be shown and explained by C. C. Nutting.

The Statler Hotel will be headquarters for the zoologists.

W. C. ALLEE,

*Secretary-Treasurer*

#### THE SECTION OF GEOLOGY OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

SECTION E—Geology and Geography—of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will hold its meetings at St. Louis, Mo., on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 30 and 31, with the possibility of an extra session on New Year's Day if enough papers are offered to make such a session desirable. The address of the retiring vice-president of Section E, Dr. David White, of the U. S. Geological Survey, will be upon the topic "Geology as it is taught in the United States." One joint session with the Association of American Geographers is being planned. The meetings of Section E will be presided over by Dr. Charles Kenneth Leith, of the University of Wisconsin. Titles of papers to be read before the Section should be in the hands of the secretary, Dr. Rollin T. Chamberlin, University of Chicago, before December 12.

#### THE SECRETARYSHIP OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

At a meeting of the committee on policy of the American Association for the Advance-

ment of Science, held in New York City on November 13, Dr. L. O. Howard, who has served the association for twenty-two years as permanent secretary, stated that in view of the great enlargement in the work of the Bureau of Entomology, of which he is the chief, and the increasing responsibilities of the office of the permanent secretary of the association, he felt unable to hold much longer the two offices. He proposed that efforts be made to find an executive officer who would devote his entire time to the work of the association and the national organization of scientific work and scientific men for the promotion and the diffusion of science. There was consequently appointed a committee on the permanent secretaryship, consisting of Dr. Simon Flexner, president of the association, Professor A. A. Noyes, and Dr. J. McKeen Cattell.

It is believed that the secretaryship of the Smithsonian Institution, the presidency of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, the chairmanship of the National Research Council and the permanent secretaryship of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, are offices of coordinate importance, and that the secretary of the association, directly responsible to the scientific men of the country, should hold a position and exert an influence not inferior to that of any scientific man in the United States.

The filling of these offices is difficult, for it is undesirable to divert able scientific men from their work. But in the existing state of society there are needed those who will sacrifice their research work in order that others may have better opportunity, as in war men are ready to sacrifice their lives to enable others to live in freedom. It is possible that the secretary of the American Association by proper organization of scientific societies, scientific institutions and scientific men and by securing the interest and support of the public might increase by ten per cent. the productivity of science in America; only a Newton or a Darwin could do so much by his individual research.

The conduct of research under modern conditions requires executive ability, and men of