variation in the amount of heat radiating from the sun.

The premises advanced have not hitherto given rise to any other conclusion as to the cause of the Ice Age than that a solution of the problem, in its general nature, can be reached in this way.

With respect to the method of overcoming the difficulties of the new branch of investigation the brief memorandum which I issued, which was intended mainly for specialists, could only refer to a somewhat more comprehensive statement of mine,[2] which also gave a short historical review from 1878. From this review it may be learned that after publishing in 1884 my first plan of obtaining a geochronology, but before trying earnestly to follow it out, I was so impressed with the supposed difficulties of the task that it was not until 1904, or twenty years later, that I took the matter up seriously. Thus I am indeed well aware that it is not enough to be cautious, one must also be audacious.

Having thus myself delayed for twenty years, it was just with a thought of the daring energy of my esteemed American friends that I gave myself the hope of trying by something like a spurt to regain some portion of the time which had been lost. As may be known by all who have followed this question, the investigations thus begun have been unexpectedly successful in results.

On the present occasion I have appealed to the kind collaboration of my American friends for organizing with their aid the application on their continent of a method of investigation which already has been tested in a region, the nature of which from several points of view has a striking similarity with that of the formerly glaciated regions of North America. Yet, the glaciation of this latter continent was much more extended than that of northern Europe. Certain parts of its highly interesting glacial geology, according to the admirable investigations of the American geologists, showing a very complicated late glacial evolution, it seems highly probable that the introduction and use of a real time scale here will be of special interest and that comparisons with the conditions in Sweden and other parts of northern Europe will doubtless be very instructive in many respects.

In the hope of a continued, fruitful collaboration I use this occasion to express my hearty thanks for the great hospitality and all the kind interest, which from so many sides, in the United States as well as in Canada, have been shown to the expedition, and especially so from the American Scandinavian Foundation, which never fails to support every initiative aiming at the evolution of our mutual relationships.

DE GEER

[2] Gerard de Geer, "A geochronology of the last 12,000 years." Presidential address, Eleventh International Geological Congress, Stockholm, 1910—Map and diagrams. Comptes Rendus, 1912.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### DEDICATION OF THE NEW LABORATORY BUILDING OF THE BUREAU OF FISHERIES AT FAIRPORT, IOWA

AT the United States Fisheries Biological Station at Fairport, Iowa, the new laboratory building has been publicly dedicated in the presence of a large assemblage composed of representatives of various state universities, the pearl-button industry and the Bureau of Fisheries, together with the Assistant Secretary of Commerce and the member of congress from the Fairport district.

The new laboratory, which is constructed of concrete, stone and brick, replaces a frame building destroyed by fire in 1917. The building is about 100 by 50 feet, with three stories and half basement; and is superior to the old structure in respect of serviceability, convenience and capacity. The laboratory accommodations for 16 investigators may be increased as circumstances require. A well-lighted library, a chemical laboratory, a photographic room, a museum, a mess hall and kitchen, and tank and aquarium rooms in addition to offices are among the useful features of the building.

The dedication exercises were as follows:

Remarks by the chairman, Hon. Albert F. Dawson, former member of Congress from the district; presentation of the building to the Department of Commerce, by Professor James M. White, architect; acceptance of the laboratory on behalf of the Department of Commerce and delivery to the Bureau of Fisheries, by Hon. Edwin F. Sweet, assistant secretary of commerce, with address on "Federal and State responsibility for maintaining resources of interstate waters"; response by Dr. Hugh M. Smith, Commissioner of Fisheries; address on "Significance of the station to industries," by Hon. Harry E. Hull, member of Congress; address on "Aquiculture and science," by Dr. Edward A. Birge, president of the University of Wisconsin; address on "The spirit of cooperation in the Bureau of Fisheries," by Professor Frank R. Lillie, University of Chicago; address on "The fisheries biological station in relation to the universities," by Professor George Lefevre, University of Missouri; and address on "The station as an aid to pure science," by Professor Charles C. Nutting, University of Iowa.

On the day following the dedicatory exercises there was held in the laboratory building a conference regarding the application of science to the utilization and preservation of the resources of interior waters. The chairman of the conference was Professor S. A. Forbes, University of Illinois, and the principal address was by Professor James G. Needham, Cornell University, on "The biological resources of our inland waters."

## THE CHICAGO MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

The history of science is to be a part of the field covered by the new Section L (Historical and Philological Sciences) of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. A temporary committee to have charge of the organization of this aspect of Section L has been appointed by the President of the Association. The personnel of this committee is as follows: Dr. William A. Locy (chairman), Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.; Mr. Frederick E. Brasch (secretary), The John Crerar Library, Chicago, Ill.; Dr. Florian Cajori, University of California, Berkeley, Calif.; Professor A. P. Carman, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.; Professor Henry G. Gale, University of Chicago, Ill.; Dr. Charles Judson Herrick, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.; Dr. Felix Neumann, War Department, Washington, D. C.; Dr. George Sarton, Harvard University, Cambridge Mass.; Dr. William H. Welch, The Johns Hopkins University, Chicago, Ill. A program on the History of Science is being planned for the approaching Chicago meeting.

In accordance with a recent action of the executive committee of the council of the American Association, the president of the association has appointed a special committee to cooperate with the officers of the new Section H (Anthropology), to organize the section and prepare a program for the Chicago meeting. The vice-president of the new section is Dr. A. E. Jenks, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn. The secretary is Dr. E. A. Hooton, Peabody Museum, Cambridge, Mass. The special committee just appointed has the following personnel: Dr. Clark Wissler (Chairman), American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y.; Dr. G. G. MacCurdy (Secretary), Yale University, New Haven Conn.; Dr. Roland B. Dixon, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.; Dr. J. Walter Fewkes, Bureau of American Ethnology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.; Dr. Aleš Hrdlička, U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.; Dr. A. L. Kroeber, University of California, Berkeley, Calif.; Dr. F. G. Speck, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.

One of the general-interest, evening sessions of the approaching Chicago meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will be devoted to an illustrated lecture by Dr. R. F. Griggs, of Ohio State University, on his exporations and studies in the volcanic region of Katmai, Alaska. The date and place of this lecture will be announced in the general program, which will be available before the opening of the meeting on December 27.