

Thirteen years ago, the writer described an experiment in which the result was the direct opposite to that called for by reading on it one of the most prominent of the laws stated by Maxwell. The proposed paper describing it was rejected by one of our leading societies on the ground that if true (which was very easily demonstrated) it was such a serious matter to refute one of Maxwell's laws that it ought to be kept a secret! It is needless to say that the writer published it; broad-minded electro-physicists have accepted this correction of that law.

Let us hope that our younger physicists will be more progressive and will develop the true scientific spirit of desiring to be corrected when it can be shown that what they teach their students is wrong.

CARL HERING

PHILADELPHIA,
November 1, 1921

THE SCIENTIFIC BUREAUS OF THE GOVERNMENT

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Since my return to Washington from my summer's field work my attention has been called several times to circulars which have been sent broadcast throughout the country by Mr. Arthur MacDonald, The Congressional, Washington, D.C., recommending the reorganization of all of the government scientific bureaus under the direction of the Smithsonian Institution. While the institution appreciates the confidence in it implied by his suggestion, I desire to point out that his scheme is entirely impracticable and was not suggested or authorized by the Smithsonian Institution, with which Mr. MacDonald is not connected in any way.

I shall be glad if you will have the goodness to publish the above in SCIENCE, in order that your readers may understand thoroughly that the institution is in no way responsible for this propaganda.

CHARLES D. WALCOTT,
Secretary

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,
November 5, 1921

QUOTATIONS

MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION IN CANADA

THE American Association for the Advancement of Science is to hold its annual meeting in Toronto this winter. The rules of the association, recently revised, give the term "American" a Continental instead of a national connotation, so that the visit to Canada will be regarded as a normal rather than as an extra-territorial event. There is thus a departure from the constitutional precedent of the British Association and of its French and German parallels. These bodies are national, although they welcome foreign guests, and have occasionally paid visits to foreign countries. Were the matter political, difficult questions might arise with regard to the proposed visit of the British Association to Toronto in 1924. The former visits of the British Association to Montreal and Toronto, and later to South Africa and Australia, were regarded as not different in kind from visits to Edinburgh or to Bournemouth. The formation since then of a South African Association for the Advancement of Science would certainly not place any obstacle in the way of another British visit to the Cape. The inclusion of Canada in the American sphere similarly should not affect the prospects of future visits of the British Association. It is all to the good that science should prefer geographical to political frontiers. We confess to a feeling of envy, however, when we read of the concessions made by American railways to science. The utmost efforts failed to extract from the British railways such reductions in fare to members of the British Association going to Edinburgh as they readily concede to pleasure parties and week-end excursions. The railroads of America are acting differently. Reduced rates for visitors to the Toronto meeting have been granted by all the railways of Canada and by those covering practically all the New England and Atlantic Coast States down to Virginia, and by those serving Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, and Illinois. Other concessions are expected, and so far as the railway journey