

The best of all was that of 1919, and to the Astronomer Royal belongs the credit of drawing attention to its specially favorable character during the blackest time of the war, when the prospects of utilizing it seemed very remote. Fortunately this dismal outlook did not prevent preparations from being made which enabled the English observers to take full advantage of the opportunity which the Armistice enabled them to grasp, with the well-known result which startled the world.

It was, however, such an amazing surprise that demand for confirmation was in every way reasonable and accordingly parties from Australia, Canada, England, Germany and the United States all prepared to observe the eclipse of last year. There were undoubtedly those who thought the English observers had made a mistake in 1919 and who wished to test the matter for themselves. I think it may not unfairly be said that President Campbell was on the skeptical side, which makes his present testimony the more valuable. Had conflicting results been obtained there would be no alternative but to go on repeating the tests. There is an eclipse this autumn visible in the United States, for which some preparations have already been made, though probably they will now be abandoned. But each successive opportunity, as already stated, offered less than the one before: 1922 was not so good as 1919; 1923 not so good as 1922; others in the future so far as they have been scrutinized less favorable still, so that the announcement of a discrepancy which must be tracked to its source with continually diminishing chances of tracking it would have been a little disheartening.

The telegram to the Astronomer Royal is thus doubly welcome: not only is there natural satisfaction at the accordance of entirely independent testimony on an important matter, but there is also relief from the threat of an arduous campaign, which even confidence in ultimate victory could not altogether compensate. The faces at the meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society yesterday were perceptibly brighter than usual.

H. H. TURNER

UNIVERSITY OBSERVATORY,  
OXFORD

## THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE SPRING MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COM- MITTEE OF THE COUNCIL

THE regular spring meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council of the Association occurred at the Cosmos Club in Washington on April 22. The following members were present: J. McKeen Cattell, H. L. Fairchild, W. J. Humphreys, B. E. Livingston, D. T. MacDougall, Herbert Osborn, Charles D. Walcott, Henry B. Ward. Dr. Simon Flexner and Dr. A. A. Noyes were unable to attend. President Walcott was in the chair during the first part of the meeting, but was obliged to leave before all the business was completed. Dr. H. L. Fairchild took the chair after Doctor Walcott's departure. The following items of business were transacted:

1. The minutes of the last meeting of the Committee and the minutes of proceedings carried out by mail ballots in the interim since the last meeting had been previously circulated to the members and were accepted without being read.

2. The permanent secretary presented his semi-annual report, which will be summarized elsewhere in *SCIENCE*.

3. The general secretary reported that the committee on Photosynthesis, authorized at the Boston meeting, has been organized with the following members: D. T. MacDougall, chairman; S. E. Sheppard, secretary; W. G. Abbott; F. G. Cottrell; Moses Gomberg; W. J. Humphreys; E. E. Slosson; H. A. Spoeher. This committee hopes to act as a focus for bringing together ideas and suggestions that may lead to substantial progress in our knowledge of photosynthesis and it hopes to serve by facilitating cooperation among research workers in this field. (See *SCIENCE* for May 4, page 522.)

4. The general secretary reported that he had conferred with the secretary of the Pacific Division with regard to the preparations and plans for the approaching Los Angeles meeting and that the preliminary work for the meeting is progressing very satisfactorily. It was noted that the Los Angeles meeting will be of special interest on account of program features dealing with the solar eclipse that will have oc-

curred just preceding the meeting. Many noted astronomers will be present and will take part in the program.

5. It was voted that, because of the serious illness of Dr. R. S. Woodward, on account of which the executive committee expressed its deep concern, the permanent secretary is authorized to disburse from the funds of his office any payments that would ordinarily be made by the treasurer, it being understood that the permanent secretary's office is to be subsequently reimbursed for such disbursements.

6. The members of the section committee for Section N, nominated by the committee, were elected. The new members of the section committee are as follows: Joseph Leidy, Jr. (retiring at the end of the annual meeting of December, 1926), 1319 Locust Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; R. G. Hoskins (retiring at the end of the annual meeting of December, 1925), 710 N. Park Street, Columbus, Ohio.

7. The executive committee confirmed the election of Dr. Louis T. More, of the University of Cincinnati, as chairman of the local committee for the third Cincinnati meeting and expressed its appreciation of the very satisfactory progress that has already been made by Dr. More and other Cincinnati members in preparing for the next annual meeting.

8. Dr. W. W. Campbell, director of the Lick Observatory and president-elect of the University of California, was nominated to Science Service as one of the trustees of Science Service from the A. A. A. S., to succeed Dr. George T. Moore, whose term has expired.

9. Forty-nine fellows were elected on regular nominations, these being distributed among the sections as follows: B, 2; D, 27; E, 1; F, 5; G, 6; M, 1; N, 3; O, 4. The executive committee instructed the permanent secretary to make arrangements for bringing fellowship elections in the association up to date as soon as may be, if possible before the seventy-fifth anniversary meeting at Cincinnati next December.

10. Dr. Fairchild presented to the Association a photograph taken at the Rochester meeting in August, 1892, and showing portraits of Joseph LeConte (then president of the association), F. W. Putnam (permanent secretary) and H. L. Fairchild (local secretary for the Rochester meeting). This photograph was ac-

cepted with thanks by the executive committee and the permanent secretary was instructed to preserve it with the collection of photographs now in his hands.

11. The executive committee considered briefly the relations between the A. A. A. S. and the Union of American Biological Societies and reaffirmed its desire to do everything feasible to further the work of the Union. The appointments of the following representatives of the Association in the council of the Union were confirmed:

Representing A. A. A. S. as a whole:

Burton E. Livingston;

Henry B. Ward.

Representing Section F:

Herbert Osborn.

Representing Section G:

C. O. Appleman.

Representing Section N:

C. A. Kofoed.

Representing Section O:

R. W. Thatcher.

12. It was voted that the committee of bibliography of science be continued. The resignation of the chairman (Dr. C. B. Davenport) was accepted. The executive committee expressed its gratification that the original work of Dr. Davenport and his committee has borne fruit in the present arrangements by which the Concilium Bibliographicum is being continued and made still more efficient under the auspices of the National Research Council and the Rockefeller Foundation. Dr. B. E. Livingston was named as chairman of the Committee on Bibliography and the committee was asked to make still further recommendations for the continued improvement of bibliographic and abstracting service in the field of science.

13. The executive committee considered a communication from Dr. C. B. Davenport regarding the plans for the National Union List of Serials, now being undertaken by Mr. H. M. Lydenberg, reference librarian of the New York Public Library, and the H. W. Wilson Company. The committee regards the preparation of such a list as very important and feels that a list of this kind for scientific periodicals is very greatly needed and will greatly facilitate scientific research.

14. The attitude of the American Association with regard to the problem of Pueblo Indian

lands, expressed in principle by action of the council at the fourth Boston meeting, was reaffirmed and a resolution was adopted giving formal statement to that attitude. The resolution will appear in *SCIENCE*.

15. It was voted that the Association wishes to aid in every feasible way the constructive work of the American Engineering Standards Committee, in its efforts to secure standardization of mathematical and physical symbols and abbreviations. The question as to whether the association should become a formal sponsor for a joint committee on symbols and abbreviations was referred to the association's special committee on this subject, with the request that the last-named committee make recommendations to the executive committee. The special committee consists of the following members: Henry Norris Russell, chairman; Augustus Trowbridge; E. W. Washburn.

16. A report was received on the work accomplished by the special committee on the development of geological features in city parks and the executive committee approved of the plan adopted by the special committee. The committee consists of the following members: W. M. Davis, chairman; E. S. Moore; Charles D. Walcott. A circular letter will soon be sent by the special committee to every American geologist, asking them to further his project to increase the educational value of city parks by bringing geological features to the attention and understanding of the public. For each of a number of cities a prominent geologist will be asked to act as local chairman for this movement, to call a meeting of geologists and other interested persons, which may take the needed steps toward accomplishing the end in view. All members of the Association are asked to lend their aid.

17. The executive committee considered a communication from Dr. C. R. Scholl, president of the Historical Society of Berks County, Pennsylvania, describing plans for the erection of a tablet memorial to Spencer Fullerton Baird, to be erected in Reading, Pa., on the site of his birthplace and voted its hearty approval of these plans.

18. The executive committee approved the action of Section E, as expressed in a memorandum prepared by a special committee of

Section E at the recent Boston meeting, urging the establishment of the office of state geologist in Massachusetts, or of a state geological survey.

19. A communication was read from Dr. E. W. Washburn, pointing out the need of financial support for the Annual Tables of data of physics, chemistry and technology, compiled under the auspices of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, of the International Research Council, and the executive committee instructed the permanent secretary to inquire of the committee on grants whether or not it might be possible to make a grant from the grants funds of the association toward the financial support of the Annual Tables. If such a grant is possible, it might be made with the idea of its being continued in future years. The committee voted that, if the committee on grants is not able this year to take action in support of this project, the permanent secretary is authorized to make from his current funds and for the present year only a contribution of not over \$200 for the support of the Annual Tables.

20. Dr. W. J. Humphreys made a progress report for the special committee on science reviews, established at the recent Boston meeting. The report was accepted and the special committee was asked to continue its study of ways and means for inaugurating improved facilities for the preparation and publication of critical reviews of scientific books. The committee consists of the following members: W. J. Humphreys, chairman; J. McKeen Cattell; D. T. MacDougal; Raymond Pearl, Robert B. Sosman.

21. A progress report was accepted from the permanent secretary, regarding the project of securing the organization of the philological sciences in the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Professor W. A. Oldfather, professor of classics in the University of Illinois, has accepted the chairmanship of the special committee on the organization of philological sciences in the A. A. A. S., this committee having been authorized at the recent Boston meeting. Professor Mark H. Liddell, professor of English at Purdue University, is secretary of the special committee. A leaflet signed by seven leading American philologists

has been prepared and will soon be sent out to all who may be interested. A letter signed by the permanent secretary and Professor Liddell is to accompany the leaflet.

22. The Potato Association of America was elected to be an associated society of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

23. The executive committee expressed its gratification with respect to the fact that Retiring President McMurrich will be able to represent the Association at the Liverpool meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. It was recommended that two other representatives be appointed, this matter being left in the hands of the president.

24. The executive committee considered the difficulty encountered in securing good attendance at Council sessions after the first day of the Council meeting (on account of conflicts with section and society sessions). To avoid this difficulty as much as possible the permanent secretary was instructed to inform the members of the Council that the main session of the Council will occur on the afternoon of the first day of the annual meeting, calling attention to the fact that there will be few or no conflicts at that time and also to inform them that Council sessions on the following days will be called promptly at 9:00 and adjourned promptly at 9:45. The permanent secretary was also instructed to arrange for promptness in calling and adjourning the Council sessions.

25. The executive committee voted that it is desirable to hold at least one special joint session at the approaching Cincinnati meeting, to be devoted to the history of the association and of American science during the last seventy-five years. It was suggested that this might well be an evening session with a lecture on this subject to be given by some prominent man of science. Further details in this regard were left in the hands of a special committee, with power, consisting of J. McKeen Cattell, chairman, L. O. Howard, B. E. Livingston.

26. The executive committee expressed its gratification at the arrangement of the Society of Sigma Xi, by which Dr. W. R. Whitney, of the General Electric Company, is to give the second annual Sigma Xi lecture, under the joint

auspices of the Society of Sigma Xi and the A. A. A. S., at the third Cincinnati meeting. This lecture is to be given on the evening of the second day of the meeting, Friday, December 28, 1923.

27. The possibility of securing more extended publicity for the annual meeting by the use of a gummed label or poster, by special printing on the envelopes used in correspondence during the autumn, or by other means, was considered briefly and the permanent secretary was instructed to study this matter and proceed according to his judgment. The permanent secretary will be glad to receive suggestions from the members in this connection.

28. On account of financial and other conditions in the South and with the approval of Dr. A. P. Bourland, secretary of the Southern Education Society, it was voted that affiliation of the Southern Education Society be discontinued.

29. The request from the treasurer of the Ohio Academy of Science that the Washington office collect all academy dues of academy members who are members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science was considered and the permanent secretary was instructed to carry out this suggestion for the Ohio Academy and also for the North Carolina Academy, for one year, and to report as to its feasibility.

BURTON E. LIVINGSTON  
*Permanent Secretary*

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE BRITISH METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE<sup>1</sup>

THE annual report of the Meteorological Committee to the Air Council for the year ended March 31, 1922, has recently been issued. It is the sixty-seventh year of the Meteorological Office and the second report submitted to the Air Council instead of to the Treasury as formerly. The meteorological service now comprises many meteorological organizations which in past years have been carried on separately and independently. In all, the total staff aimed at to complete the organization is 375. Retrenchments undertaken, however, by all government departments have led to some modified

<sup>1</sup> From *Nature*.