

# SCIENCE

VOL. LXI

JANUARY 9, 1925

No. 1567

## ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES<sup>1</sup>

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SCIENCE: A Weekly Journal devoted to the Advancement of Science, edited by J. McKeen Cattell and published every Friday by

### THE SCIENCE PRESS

Lancaster, Pa.

Garrison, N. Y.

New York City: Grand Central Terminal.

Annual Subscription, \$5.00. Single Copies, 15 Cts.

SCIENCE is the official organ of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Information regarding membership in the association may be secured from the office of the permanent secretary, in the Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C.

Entered as second-class matter July 18, 1923, at the Post Office at Lancaster, Pa., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

THE national government has a special and a profound interest in the gathering of the country's scientific leaders which you are beginning to-day in the capital city. No other single agency has so extensively relied upon the men and women of science as has the government. The personnel of the government service and the figures of the annual appropriation alike testify to this. The government has been foremost in employing, and most liberal in endowing science.

Let me say at once, however, that I do not intend to imply that we have been impressively liberal in dealing with the individual scientists who conduct these activities of the government. The most casual inspection of the salary lists of scientific workers in Washington will make very plain that it is toward science, not the scientists, that the country has been officially generous.

I was impressed with a new realization of the extent and importance of the scientific activities which center here in Washington by some figures showing the geographical distribution of members of your association. In proportion to its population there are more than five times as many of your members here as there are in any state.

I wish time would permit a brief suggestion of the amazing variety, the wide ramifications and the enormous value to the whole people of these scientific activities which are conducted under the administrative departments. Whether in studying the stars or in mapping the bottom of the sea; whether in making two blades of grass grow where one formerly grew; whether in developing a chemical compound that will destroy life or one that will save it; whether in weighing an atom or analyzing the composition of the most distant star—whatever the problem of human concern or social advancement, the scientific establishment of the government has enlisted the men and the means to consider it and ultimately to solve it.

So, as one particularly interested in this governmental university of practical and applied science, I welcome your great gathering to Washington. You represent the interests, the forces and the endless

<sup>1</sup> Given at the White House to members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and affiliated societies meeting in Washington.

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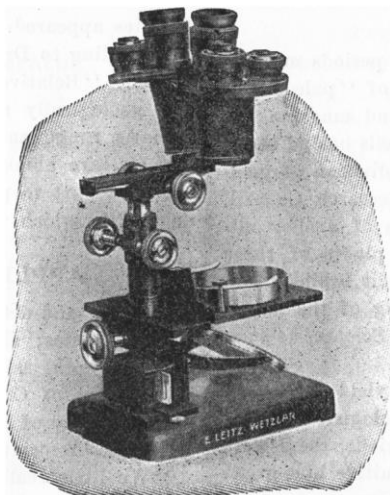
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*Professor of Psychology and*

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