# SCIENCE

VOL. LXIII FEBRUARY 12, 1926 No. 1624

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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, \$6.00. Single Copies, 15 Cts. SOLENCE 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 8, 1879.

# THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD AND AUTHORITY<sup>1</sup>

But the mortellest enemy unto knowledge, and that which hath done the greatest execution unto truth, hath beene a peremptory adhesion unto *Authority*, and especially the establishing of our beliefs upon the dictates of Antiquites. For (as every capacity may observe) most men of Ages present, so supersticiously do look upon Ages past, that the *Authorities* of the one excel the reasons of the other.—Sir Thomas Browne.

One who is ignorant of the history of science is ignorant of the struggle by which mankind has passed from routine and caprice, from superstitious subjection to nature, from efforts to see it magically, to intellectual self-possession.—John Dewey.

Discussion stimulates while controversy depresses. —Dr. Florence Sabin.

The Scientific method must ultimately spread out to every human affair.—H. G. Wells.

A religion of authority gives rise to a scholastic theology; by the same necessity the religion of the spirit seeks to find form and expression in a theology which is increasingly scientific.—Auguste Sabatier.

Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. --St. Paul.

In every true searcher of nature there is a kind of religious reverence.—*Einstein*.

For who would keep an ancient form Thro' which the spirit breathes no more? —Tennyson.

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<sup>1</sup> Address of the retiring vice president of Section F— Zoology—American Association for the Advancement of Science—given at Kansas City, December 29, 1925.

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