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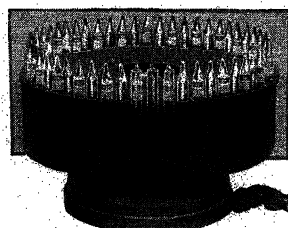
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## CONTENTS

<i>The British Association for the Advancement of Science:</i>	
<i>The Presidential Address:</i> H. R. H. THE PRINCE OF WALES .....	143
<i>George D. Shepardson:</i> PROFESSOR O. M. LELAND .....	150
<i>George E. Beyer:</i> DR. PERCY VIOSCA, JR. ....	151
<i>Scientific Events:</i>	
<i>Expeditions of the Field Columbian Museum; The Beit Fellowships; The Daniel Guggenheim Fund for the Promotion of Aeronautics; Meeting of Plant Physiologists; The International Conference on Flower and Fruit Sterility.</i> .....	151
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i> .....	154
<i>University and Educational Notes</i> .....	157
<i>Discussion:</i>	
<i>The English Translation of De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium:</i> DR. FREDERICK E. BRASCH. <i>Fluorides versus Fluosilicates as Insecticides:</i> DR. S. MARCOVITCH. <i>Comments on "Vacuoles":</i> DR. ALBERT SCHNEIDER .....	158
<i>Scientific Books:</i>	
<i>Terman's Genetic Studies of Genius:</i> PROFESSOR WALTER F. DEARBORN .....	160
<i>Scientific Apparatus and Laboratory Methods:</i>	
<i>On the Retention of a Ball by a Vertical Water Jet:</i> PROFESSOR WILL C. BAKER .....	161
<i>Special Articles:</i>	
<i>The Basis of Reflex Coordination:</i> PROFESSOR ALEXANDER FORBES .....	163
<i>The American Association for the Advancement of Science:</i>	
<i>The Mills College Meeting of the Pacific Division.</i> .....	166
<i>Science News</i> .....	x

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My first duty, as president of our great association, must be to read to you the following message from His Majesty The King:—

I am sensible of the distinction conferred upon my dear son, The Prince of Wales, in presiding at this year's meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science; for I realize that no member of my family has occupied this position since my grandfather was president in 1859. I can not do better than repeat the assurances then made by the Prince Consort on behalf of Queen Victoria, and express my deep appreciation of the all-important and ceaseless labors in the cause of science of those eminent men who enjoy the membership of your world-renowned society.

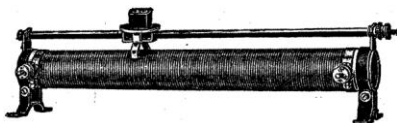
I propose on behalf of the association to forward the following reply to this message:

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My second duty is to try and tell you—if this be possible—something which you do not know already. I must admit frankly that, for a long time, the prospect of attempting this has weighed on me heavily. For a man who, along with the great majority of his fellow-creatures, can lay claim to no intensive scientific training, it is no light responsibility to be called on to address the annual gathering of the British Association. But, believe me, I do not intend to shirk that responsibility; for it seems to me that only

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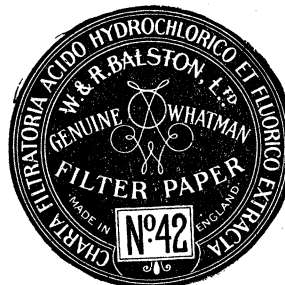
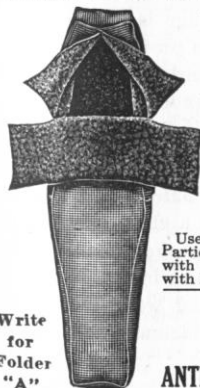
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