

## THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

### ENROLLMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION

THE permanent secretary's annual report on membership in the American Association, for the end of the fiscal year that closed September 30, shows that there were on that date 13,393 members in good standing, including 3 sustaining members, 418 life and emeritus members and 12,972 annual members whose dues had been paid for the year just ended. There were also on the rolls the names of 601 members in arrears for one year and 372 in arrears for two years, making a total enrollment of 14,366. Over ninety-three per cent. of the enrolled members were in good standing at the close of the year.

From September 30, 1925, to September 30, 1926, the gain in membership was 765 and the loss was 662. Of the latter number, 128 had died, 272 had resigned by letter and 262 had resigned automatically by allowing their names to be dropped from the rolls on account of more than two years of arrearage. The net gain in membership for the year was therefore only 103. The smallness of the net gain may well occasion serious thought, for the continued and rapid growth of the organization is of course highly desirable. That this gain was but 103 last year is specially remarkable in connection with the unusually large corresponding gains for the two previous years, which were 1,376 for 1924-25 and 1,183 for 1923-24, but the net gains for the next three still earlier years were very small—58 for 1922-23, 99 for 1921-22 and 105 for 1920-21. It is difficult to guess what may have been the influential conditions that determined such marked fluctuations in the annual increase in membership.

The following tabulation shows the general march of our enrollment since 1900, by five-year intervals and since 1920 by years.

Fiscal year (Oct. 1 to Sept. 30)	No. of mem- bers in good standing, end of year	Net gain during year	Total enroll- ment, end of year
1899-1900	.....	.....	1,921
1904-1905	.....	.....	4,041
1909-1910	.....	.....	7,950
1914-1915	.....	.....	8,325
1919-1920	10,002	.....	11,442
1920-1921	10,160	105	11,547
1921-1922	10,566	99	11,646
1922-1923	10,787	58	11,704
1923-1924	12,130	1,183	12,887
1924-1925	13,437	1,376	14,263
1925-1926	13,393	103	14,366

The mean rate of increase in the enrollment was nearly the same for the first, second, fourth and fifth five-year periods, but it was much lower for the third period (1909-10 to 1914-15). In the last six years the rate was low for the first three and for the last year, but remarkably high for the fourth and fifth years. The two years of great net gains were those of the third Cincinnati and the fifth Washington meetings.

Members of the association and all friends of science are asked to take every opportunity to increase our membership. There are surely many thousands of people who should take part in the work of the association but who are not yet members. The Washington office will furnish application cards, booklets of information concerning our organization and sample copies of the journal (*SCIENCE* or *The Scientific Monthly*) for use in securing new members, and it will aid whenever possible in any membership campaign that may be carried on locally. If each member might secure one new member the work of the association might be more than doubled. Any member of an officially affiliated organization, including the affiliated state academies, may now join the American Association without paying the regular entrance fee of five dollars. All members of affiliated organizations, as well as all other friends of science, should be members of the association, thus aiding in its work. From the standpoint of individual gain, the journal subscription alone is easily worth much more than the annual membership dues.

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP IN THE ASSOCIATION

THIS is the season of the year when life members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science may gain a bit of real satisfaction by the contemplation of their peculiar state. On the first of October each year every member of the association receives a card from the permanent secretary's office in Washington. The cards sent to life members bear the pleasing and annually repeated remark that the office has not forgotten the life members and that their journal subscriptions (for *SCIENCE* or *The Scientific Monthly*) have been renewed for another year. These cards look much like those received by annual members in the same mails, but the former ask for no payment of dues, while the latter do ask for dues due October 1. A life member may complacently let the Washington office see to it that his name is kept on the association roll indefinitely and that his journal continues to be sent to him without interruption. He is glad that he once made the final decision to pay all his future dues in advance, at the same time