

in the *Ecole d'Anthropologie de Paris*. He had been general secretary of the *Société d'Anthropologie de Paris* since 1902.

As an author, Manouvrier, who always signed himself simply as "L. Manouvrier," has left approximately 150 original memoirs and papers on anthropology and related subjects. These include memoirs on anatomy and physiology; morphological variations of the human brain, of the skull, and of the skeleton; human evolution; abnormal variations of the human body; relation of the volume and form of the brain to intelligence; proportions of the human body; anthropometry; anthropological technique; psychological concepts; will; temperament; aptitudes. His memoir on *Pithecanthropus erectus* was translated into English by the present writer while the latter was one of his students in the anthropological laboratory of the *Ecole des Hautes Etudes*.

Professor Manouvrier was the recipient of many honors: Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur; honorary member of the Anthropological Societies of Berlin, Bologna, Coimbra, Florence, London, Moscow, Rome, St. Petersburg, Stockholm, Vienna, and Washington. Professor Manouvrier was the one foreigner chosen to represent anthropology on the lecture platform of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, St. Louis, in 1904.

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## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### CONFERENCE AT THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

A UNIQUE conference in the history of American science took place on February 11 at the Smithsonian Institution. The president of the United States, the vice-president, the entire cabinet and some fifty leaders of the scientific, political and industrial life of the country, met under the chairmanship of Chief Justice William Howard Taft, to consider the future of the Smithsonian Institution, in connection with the opportunity which America now has of taking world leadership in fundamental scientific research.

The conference was called by the board of regents before the death of the secretary of the institution, Dr. Charles D. Walcott, and was held as planned in accordance with his expressed wish made a few days before his death. The purpose of the conference was to reveal the exact nature of the Smithsonian's activities in the increase and diffusion of knowledge, the strength of its position as a private institution under the guardianship of the government, its pres-

tige as the parent of American science, and finally its possibilities as the inspirer and coordinator of basic scientific investigation in this country. The program included a carefully arranged exhibit of the researches and publications now being carried on by the Smithsonian and of their possible expansion, and speeches by Chancellor Taft and Acting Secretary Charles G. Abbot. A luncheon and round table discussion concluded the meeting.

The address of Chief Justice Taft is printed elsewhere in this issue of SCIENCE.

In dealing with the Smithsonian's activities and capacities, Dr. Abbot explained how the popular misapprehension that the institution was a government bureau had arisen from the fact that it administers seven scientific bureaus for the government. He said that the Smithsonian performed this service for the government because the bureaus in question had arisen out of Smithsonian activities. He made clear that the major work of the institution continued to be research and publication, listing fourteen distinct activities which contributed to these ends.

After the luncheon the conference discussed plans for enabling the Smithsonian to expand its activities.

This is the first time since 1878 that the Smithsonian Establishment, which includes the President, Vice-president, Chief Justice and members of the Cabinet, has met. Those invited to attend, most of whom were present, were:

*The Establishment:* President Coolidge, Vice-president Dawes, Chief Justice Taft, Secretary Kellogg, Secretary Mellon, Secretary of War Davis, Attorney-general Sargent, Postmaster-general New, Secretary Wilbur, Secretary Work, Secretary Jardine, Secretary Hoover and Secretary of Labor Davis. *Regents:* Senator Smoot, Senator Pepper, Senator Ferris, Representative Johnson, Representative Moore, Representative Newton, Charles F. Choate, Jr., Henry White, Robert S. Brookings, Irwin B. Laughlin, Frederic A. Delano, Dwight W. Morrow. *Officers:* Active Secretary Charles G. Abbot, Assistant Secretary Alexander Wetmore. *Conferees:* Dr. Edwin A. Alderman, Senator Hiram Bingham, Robert W. Bingham, Charles F. Brush, Dr. W. W. Campbell, Asa G. Candler, Jr., Emory W. Clark, Representative Charles Crisp, Harvey S. Firestone, Dr. Simon Flexner, Representative L. A. Frothingham, Governor Alvan T. Fuller, Elbert H. Gary, Walter S. Gifford, Chauncey J. Hamlin, Representative Cordell Hull, Robert P. Lamont, Representative Nicholas Longworth, General H. M. Lord, Dr. John C. Merriam, Senator Jesse H. Metcalf, Representative Ogden Mills, Dr. Henry Fairfield Osborn, Judge Edwin B. Parker, John Poole, John J. Raskob, Samuel Rea, Edgar Rickard, Dr. Henry M. Robinson, William B. Storey, Dr. S. W. Stratton, Silas H. Strawn, Dr. George E. Vincent, Dr. William Henry Welch, Robert Winsor, Owen D. Young.