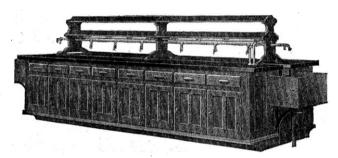
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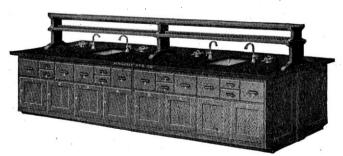
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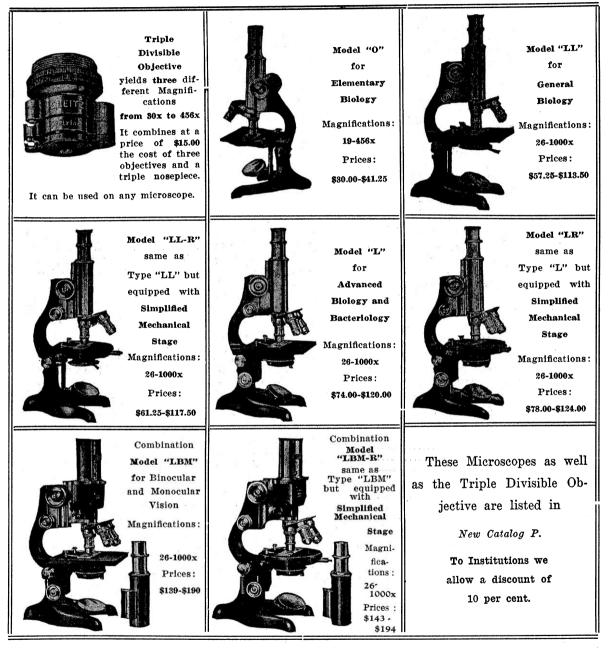
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SCIENCE

Vol. LXVI

SEPTEMBER 2, 1927

No. 1705

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DARWIN'S THEORY OF MAN'S DESCENT AS IT STANDS TO-DAY¹

MY LORD MAYOR, MR. VICE-CHANCELLOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

My first duty as your president, and it is a very pleasant one, is to send the following message in your name to H.R.H. The Prince of Wales:

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS,

The British Association for the Advancement of Science, now assembled in Leeds to begin another session, can not allow your year of office to terminate without offering to you sincere and humble congratulations on the happy results which have attended your presidency. A year ago, in the historic city of Oxford, you did British science the signal honor of coming among us as our president; the meeting you then inaugurated set a standard which future gatherings will strive to emulate. The inspiring message you then addressed to us, and through us to men of science in every part of the empire, has already borne fruit. We are within sight of a closer union, for which the association itself has always striven, between men of science overseas and their colleagues at home, in their endeavor to solve problems of imperial concern. It is too soon as yet to assess the value of the harvest of science planted under your ægis, for the best vintages of science mature slowly, but of this we are certain: the interest Your Royal Highness has taken in the work of this association will prove a permanent source of encouragement for all who work for the betterment of life through increase of knowledge. To-night we proudly add your presidential banner to those of the great men of science who have presided over this association since its inception at York ninety-six years ago.

In olden times men kept their calendars by naming each year according to its outstanding event. I have no doubt that in future times the historian of this association, when he comes to distinguish the presidential year which opened so auspiciously in Oxford twelve months ago, will be moved to revert to this ancient custom and name it the Prince's Year. And I am under no misapprehension as to what will happen when our historian comes to the term which I have now the honor of inaugurating at Leeds; he will immediately relapse to the normal system of numerical notation. Nor will our historian fail to note, should he be moved to contrast the meeting at Oxford with

¹ The presidential address before the British Association for the Advancement of Science given at Leeds on August 31.

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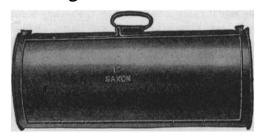
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