SCIENCE

VOL. LXVII APRIL 20, 1928 No. 1738

CONTENTS

SCIENCE: A Weekly Journal devoted to the Advancement of Science, edited by J. McKeen Cattell and published every Friday by

THE SCIENCE PRESS

New York City: Grand Central Terminal.

Lancaster, Pa. Garrison, N. Y.

Annual Subscription, $6.00. Single Copies, 15 Cts.

SCIENCE 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.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN SCIENCE[1]

IN this my introductory lecture, I take pleasure, at the very outset, in expressing my gratitude to the president of your university, to Professor Dennis and to the other authorities responsible for having addressed to me an invitation to come to you as lecturer on the Baker Foundation. I regard this invitation as a great honor, altogether beyond what I have deserved, and it will be my earnest endeavor, during my stay in your midst, to discharge the duties of this lectureship to the utmost of my ability.

The first of these duties in point of time is to deliver an introductory lecture on a non-technical subject. The choice of such a subject for the present occasion has caused me not a little difficulty. At the outset it seemed to me that since the purpose of the Baker Foundation is to bring over lecturers from other lands and thus facilitate intercourse between workers of different nationalities, I might perhaps suitably discuss the nature and extent of the intercourse between scientific men in different countries, both in the past and in the present. When I mentioned my plan to a friend who had lectured in a western university, he told me that the relations between European scientists would not be of any particular interest here, where a single nation stretches right across a continent. He further suggested that Americans are not so well informed about the national peculiarities of Europeans as I imagined, that they have no sympathy for our difficulties and are indeed somewhat impatient of European squabbles and jealousies. I was advised to discuss instead some more concrete chapter in scientific research and to treat it in a popular fashion. This suggestion, that America stands aloof from European affairs, did not, however, agree with my own impressions, previously gathered from American colleagues visiting Europe. The very fact that your university makes a practice of inviting foreign lecturers and the assurances of two of my predecessors in the Baker lectureship, convinced me that here in the east, at any rate, you are not only well acquainted with conditions in Europe, but also understand our difficulties, so that I still hope I may bring before you certain general considerations affecting scientific progress, and thus discharge my obliga-

[1] Introductory public lecture by Professor George Barger, of the University of Edinburgh, non-resident lecturer in chemistry at Cornell University.