The primary object of the Rockefeller Foundation the improvement of health and of education; a valuable secondary result of their activities is the promotion of international amity. This latter object is the primary one in the case of certain other benefactions, such as that of the thirty-two scholarships for American students, founded a generation ago by an Englishman, Cecil Rhodes, in his own University of Oxford. In this, as in other matters, Rhodes was a pioneer. His foundation has now a counterpart in the Commonwealth Fund, supported by gifts from the late Mrs. Stephen V. Harkness, which fund has established a number of fellowships for British graduates, tenable at American universities. I may perhaps quote from the official memorandum: "In creating these Commonwealth Fund Fellowships the Directors of the Fund have been impelled by a belief in the value of international opportunities for education and travel to young men and women of character and ability, and by a conviction that such opportunities offered to British students will promote the mutual amity and understanding of Great Britain and the United States." The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation indirectly furthers the same object by giving fellowships to American graduates for study abroad. All these factors are bound to have a favorable effect on the outlook of the younger generation of scientific workers; half a century ago they did not exist; in the main we owe them to your country.

National characteristics have an interest, comparable to that which the student of natural history takes in the various species of animals and plants. National psychology may be as interesting as the nesting habits of birds. Each nation has its own particular genius, without which the world would be the poorer. It is interesting to inquire which nations show the greatest aptitude for scientific research, and why they do so. I feel convinced, as a result of a statistical inquiry, into which I can not enter here, that the small nations are preeminent in this respect. Per million of population Holland, Switzerland and the Scandinavian countries at present seem to contribute more to the progress of science than any of the larger nations. Why this is so it is difficult to say. It is also interesting to speculate on the reasons which make pure mathematics flourish in Italy and in Sweden, music and organic chemistry in Germany, biochemistry and psychology in the United States, physiology in Britain. Whilst we need not agree wholly with the opening words of Wurtz's dictionary of chemistry, which claims this science as French, and Lavoisier as its founder, we must recognize that we owe bacteriology to Pasteur and to France. The various nations have each their peculiar aptitude which by itself constitutes a reason for furthering international relations in science; my main reason for having brought this subject before you is, however, a desire to promote, in the words of the Commonwealth Fund Memorandum, "mutual amity and understanding." This object has already appealed to a number of your citizens; with the westward trend of civilization it is all the more desirable that the difficulties of an enfeebled Europe should be understood by America, which has become the economic mistress of the modern world, just as Rome in the third century B. C. became the political mistress of the Mediterranean. Europe, like Greece, has suffered from internal strife, yet the influence of Greece was not extinguished by the loss of political independence; the Academy survived for seven centuries, and the migration of Greek scholars began the Renaissance. Similarly, the influence of Europe will survive her economic adversity; America will doubtless become even more interested in European affairs, just as Rome looked more and more to Greek civilization.

I hope I have not wearied you with the dissensions of European men of science. In discussing them I have had in mind the words which mark so impressively the tomb of your great countryman, Grant, on the bank of the Hudson River. These words, used after a great crisis in your political history, I would apply to scientific affairs of to-day: "Let us have peace."

GEORGE BARGER

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

SCIENCE WEEK IN NEW YORK

DECEMBER 27, 1928, TO JANUARY 2, 1929

THOSE who are engaged in the preparation for the coming eighty-fifth meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and Associated Societies, which will be held in New York City from December 27, 1928, to January 2, 1929, are endeavoring to arrange a week's program so attractive and interesting that the members of the association and the societies will be more than usually tempted to extend their individual visits to New York over the entire week from Thursday evening, December 27, to Wednesday evening, January 2.

With the commodious facilities afforded by several new, large, medium-priced hotels, recently constructed in the city, the local committee hopes to secure favorable weekly—and, if possible, half-weekly—rates. The American Association program will begin with the opening session on Thursday evening, December 27, and will conclude with a very interesting general address on Wednesday evening, January 2. Thus ample time will be afforded the members of the asso-

ciation and of the societies to visit personally the remarkable group of scientific institutions which have been springing up in various parts of New York City during the last twenty-five years and which have transformed the city from a merely social, economic and artistic municipality into one of the most interesting centers of scientific activity in the world. Every branch of science represented in the American Association and Associated Societies has been affected by this astonishing expansion, which, in itself, is due to the intelligence and energy of the scientific men and women who have been attracted to the city, and also to the unprecedented inflow of wealth and beneficence that has touched and enriched every branch.

In geology and geography, in physics and chemistry, in mathematics and engineering, in all the botanical and zoological sciences—including biophysics and biochemistry—finally in anthropology, psychology and education, as well as in the medical sciences, the City of New York has made wonderful progress. Its laboratories and museums, the rapidly extending exhibition halls and scientific collections connected with its leading institutions of learning and culture, are in themselves worthy of prolonged study; because many of them represent the last word in the technique of scientific research. The governing officials of all the sixty institutions where various new facilities for research and education are to be seen have united in extending a cordial welcome to the visitors who will come to New York for the approach of Science Week. It will be a great loss, especially for those coming from a distance, if their plans are made for so short a visit that they will be obliged to spend all their time in the scientific sessions, thus making it impossible or difficult to take advantage of the opportunity of accepting the hospitality of these numerous institutions. It is planned that the week's program will include one special day for each of the most interesting organizations, on which day these organizations will be specially prepared for the reception of those who are in attendance at the great science convention.

The American Museum of Natural History—with its fifty exhibition halls covering every branch of natural history and anthropology—will itself fill a great deal of the time most advantageously. Visitors will be surprised to find in this institution a finely equipped laboratory for experimental zoology and will be pleased with the beginnings of the new extension of its exhibitions and researches into other fields of biology, ichthyology and oceanography, as well as with the foundations of the future great Hall of Astronomy.

Columbia University has offered its hospitality to the association and the societies; Dean George Braxton Pegram, of the Faculty of Science, is in charge of the university's arrangements, as well as the general arrangements for the meeting, and all inquiries for meeting places—whether at Columbia, the American Museum, the Engineering Building, the Rockefeller Institute or the Cornell Medical College—should be addressed to him. Of especial interest to the members of both the association and the societies are the superb buildings erected in the various departments of science since the association last met at Columbia, in 1916. Foremost among these buildings is the new Chemistry Hall, planned under the direction of the late Professor Charles F. Chandler and embodying all the newest ideas in the construction of a chemistry building, both for practical and experimental laboratories, and the encouragement of various branches of research. It is expected that many of the sections of the association and the societies associated with it will find ample accommodation in the numerous lecture halls and laboratories of the university. The adjacent Teachers College, with its large auditoriums and lecture halls will especially welcome the various meetings devoted to education; while Barnard College, Horace Mann School, International House and Casa Italiana, on the university grounds, stand ready to open hospitable halls. The New York Historical Society, adjacent to the American Museum, offers further accommodations at that part of town, while the medical and engineering sections will be magnificently provided for.

Special efforts are being made to have the scientific sessions of the association and the societies distributed as satisfactorily as possible in Science Week. It is hoped that the majority of the society meetings may not be crowded into the first half-week (December 27 to 29) but that many of the societies will arrange to hold their meetings, receptions and dinners from Sunday, December 30 to Wednesday, January 2, the date on which the last general session of the American Association will be held, followed by the closing general reception.

Evening addresses of general interest in the several science fields are being planned for every evening of the week, which are to be announced later. These will be delivered in the great Hall of the American Museum of Natural History (77th St., and Central Park West) and each is to be followed by a reception for those interested in the field of science represented by the address. The receptions will be held in the new education hall of the museum and the appropriate exhibition halls will be open during the evening, with special arrangements of exhibits planned particularly for these occasions.

Registration offices for the convention will be in education hall at the museum, also at Columbia University, where many of the scientific sessions are to

be held, and probably at the Engineering Societies Building (29 West 39th St.) and at Cornell Medical College (28th St. and Avenue A). Arrangements are in progress by which those who register may be subject to just as little inconvenience as possible, especially with reference to the validation of reduced-rate railway certificates and other features of registration. These arrangements will be announced later from the Washington office of Dr. Burton E. Livingston, permanent secretary of the association, in the Smithsonian Institution Building.

The local arrangements for meeting places and equipment and for the general sessions, receptions, etc., are, as usual, in the hands of the local committees for the meeting, with a local executive committee consisting of the following members, as thus far appointed:

Henry Fairfield Osborn, president of the American Association.

Michael I. Pupin, honorary chairman of the local committee.

George Braxton Pegram, general chairman of the local committees.

J. McKeen Cattell, chairman of the executive committee of the American Association and editor of SCIENCE.

Sam F. Trelease, secretary of the local committees.

Communications regarding arrangements for the meeting should be addressed to Dr. Sam F. Trelease, secretary, American Association office, American Museum of Natural History, West 77th St., New York City, and a copy of each communication should be simultaneously sent also to Dr. Burton E. Livingston, permanent secretary, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C.

The chief purpose of the newly elected president is to make the coming eighty-fifth meeting of real scientific significance in the advancement of science in this country, as is done, year by year, in the splendidly organized meetings of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. Accordingly, invitations are being sent to the leading scientific representatives of New York, Princeton and New Haven, to serve as members of local advisory committees for the several sections of the Association and their associated societies. Names of the members of these advisory committees will be published in the near future. It is hoped that they will lend their influence and scientific prestige to the meeting and aid in making the New York programs much more valuable than usual.

The president is also suggesting to the vice-presidents for the sections that they choose for their addresses subjects of current popular interest, and that they prepare their manuscripts, with summaries, well in advance, so that these may be released to the press in distant cities on the respective days when the addresses are delivered.

It fortunately happens that many of the most distinguished men of American science are going to be in New York during this Science Week, so the principal general addresses will be very important. The plan of extending an invitation abroad to at least one great public lecturer is also under consideration. Another very important feature of the coming meeting will be the symposia on topics of present interest, some of which may be suggested by the president of the association. It is, moreover, eminently desirable that the section officers and the officers of the associated societies join forces in avoiding conflicts of program so as to successfully amplify each other.

Later issues of SCIENCE will contain further announcements of preparations for this really notable event in American scientific history.

HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN,
President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

WALTER LE CONTE STEVENS

WALTER LE CONTE STEVENS was born in Gordon County, Georgia, on June 17, 1847.

His early education was obtained from tutors in his father's home and from local private schools near Walthourville. He entered the University School at Athens in 1862 and studied there for two years. During this time, though only sixteen years of age, he taught Latin and Greek in addition to his regular work as a student.

In 1864 he entered the Confederate army and was stationed with the field artillery at Fort McAllister, Georgia. He was transferred to the Signal Corps and served as a telegraph operator until stricken by malaria. He spent most of his time while a soldier as an invalid.

He entered the University of South Carolina in 1866, just as that institution was changing from a college to a university, and received the degree of A.B. in 1868. His graduating essay was on "Physics and Metaphysics," showing, in spite of almost exclusively classical training, a leaning toward scientific subjects. This leaning was, no doubt, fostered by his early association with his father, who was a country physician, and with his uncles, the famous Le Conte brothers.

After graduation he clerked for a short time in a drug store in Columbia and he tutored and taught