

year. With Wilder, however, travel was not primarily a matter of sightseeing; he always felt that the most interesting and profitable aspect of it was the experience of meeting and knowing congenial people of other nationalities and races, and learning their point of view by actually living so far as possible, if only for a brief time, in their environment and manner. Thus he made numerous interesting contacts and warm friendships with scientific men and others in many parts of the world. As shown by the general tenor of the "Pedigree of the Human Race" he had developed a profound appreciation of the common humanity of all races and a belief in similar potentialities of all for intellectual and spiritual achievement.

The general public knows a scientific man by his published works and by his achievements in his chosen field of research, and H. H. Wilder will be long remembered. His family and friends, however, will think rather of other things when they look back on their association with him. They will remember the sweetness of his disposition, his modesty and gentleness, his gaiety and love of fun, the brightness of his wit and the brilliancy of his talk and his self-effacement when rewards and honors were being distributed. The many generations of Smith College students who sat under his teaching will recall the enthusiasm for his courses which he inspired in them, his vital concern for their welfare and progress and especially his hospitable home, where he loved to entertain and amuse them.

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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE SECRETARIES' CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION AND AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

At the second Toronto meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in December, 1921, was inaugurated a conference of the secretaries of sections and societies, together with members of the executive committee and some of the officers. A similar conference has been held in connection with each subsequent meeting of the association. Recently this conference has become organized as a standing committee of the association under the direction of the secretaries of sections and societies. Under the new plan the organization is permanent and is to be known as the Secretaries' Conference. It is planned that there shall be one or more sessions of the conference at each annual meeting and that the work of the conference will be carried on by correspondence in the interim.

The secretaries of the sections and societies are directly concerned with the details of arranging programs, rooms and the like, and they should be familiar with the needs of their own science groups. Efforts will be made by correspondence to determine some of the problems and questions which need study, and these will be made the topics for discussion at future sessions. It is expected that each secretary of a section or of a society will indicate modifications that seem desirable to make his sessions more successful, and that he will suggest possible changes that promise to lead to more satisfactory arrangements and procedure in general. There are numerous details which must be taken up anew each year by the local committees for the annual meeting and the combined experiences of the secretaries should be very valuable to the local committees as well as to the Washington office of the association. There might well be worked out by the secretaries' conference a series of directions to guide future committees in their work on arrangements for the meetings.

Some of the questions recently discussed in sessions of the secretaries' conference will give an idea of the problems which are still more or less unsolved. How may the scientific men themselves become better acquainted with the problems and work in other fields than their own? Will joint sessions or general papers on border-line questions be helpful? How may the interrelationships of different fields be presented to the general public so as to stimulate interest and support? How may room assignments be made to bring together related groups? How may the methods be improved for handling railway certificates, and facilitating the getting of return railway tickets and Pullman accommodations? What can be done to improve the procedure followed in making the award of the annual American Association prize? Can plans be worked out to develop the scientific side of the annual exhibition? Is there any way to reduce the great complexities that are more or less inherent in meetings of so many societies and groups?

It is hoped that some of these, or similar questions, may be arranged for study, report and discussion at the next session of the secretaries' conference in New York City next winter. The members of the conference will cooperate in this, and will welcome suggestions from others. The secretaries' conference might well become a sort of clearing-house for the consideration of the problems and questions arising in connection with the annual meetings of our scientific societies. Notes and suggestions may be addressed to the conference secretary. GEORGE T. HARGITT,

Secretary of the Secretaries' Conference

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