

It is suggested that those who are concerned investigate the regulations and practices of the organizations which affect them; report pertinent facts through the scientific periodicals; and, through personal influence and the action of groups of scientific men, induce the standardizing agencies to change the discriminatory standards and practices.

M. A. C.

THE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF MEMBERSHIPS IN THE NA- TIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

THE geographical distribution of memberships in the National Academy of Sciences is a subject of considerable interest, inasmuch as the memberships may be said to have a relationship to research activities in the physical and biological sciences, including anthropology and psychology. The following assignments of residence are as of date August 1, 1928:

MEMBERSHIPS IN STATES	
New York	47
Massachusetts	40
California	36
Illinois	22
District of Columbia	21
Connecticut	17
Maryland	14
New Jersey	11 ¹
Wisconsin	9
Michigan	5
Pennsylvania	5
Rhode Island	3
Missouri	2
Ohio	2
Arizona	1
Colorado	1 (retired)
Iowa	1
North Carolina	1
Total	238

The column in the following table headed *M* contains the numbers of academy members who are professors in the medical schools of their respective universities. In several cases it is uncertain whether professors serving their universities in both the medical schools and the academic colleges thereof should be accredited to the medical schools or to the colleges. Another compiler of the table would quite likely make assignments to column *M* differing a little from mine.

The miscellaneous memberships refer to members who are connected with industrial corporations, or are in private practice as engineers, or are serving in

¹ Including one member temporarily residing in Europe.

MEMBERSHIPS IN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

	<i>M</i>
Harvard University	28 + 7
University of Chicago	13 + 3
Yale University	15 + 1
University of California	13 + 1
Columbia University	13 ²
Johns Hopkins University	4 + 9
Princeton University	9
Stanford University	9
Cornell University	5 + 3
University of Wisconsin	8
California Institute of Technology	6
University of Illinois	5
University of Michigan	3 + 1
University of Pennsylvania	2 + 2
Brown University	2
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	2
Washington University	0 + 2
Case School of Applied Science	1
Clark University	1
University of Iowa	1
University of North Carolina	1
Northwestern University	1
University of Pittsburgh	1
Vassar College	1

MEMBERSHIPS IN RESEARCH AND SERVICE INSTITUTIONS

Carnegie Institution of Washington (including Station for Experimental Evolution, Geophysical Laboratory, Mount Wilson Observatory, and Nutrition Laboratory)	12
Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research	8
Smithsonian Institution (including Bureau of Ethnology and National Museum)	7
U. S. Geological Survey	4
American Museum of Natural History	3 ²
U. S. Bureau of Standards	2
New York Botanical Gardens	2
U. S. Department of Agriculture	1
U. S. Army	1
U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey	1
Lowell Observatory	1
U. S. Navy	1
Rockefeller Foundation	1
N. Y. State Museum	1
Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research	1
Miscellaneous memberships	21

other individual capacities. It has not seemed practicable to accredit them to their respective organizations, because of the variety of conditions represented—employee, employer, and so on. However, it is of profound significance that five academy members are research officers in one great manufacturing corpora-

² Including two academy members who are assigned to both Columbia University and the American Museum of Natural History.

tion, that two academy members are high officers in a great public-service corporation, etc.

If on the map of the United States a line be drawn, starting on the Atlantic coast at Lynn, Massachusetts, with straight sections of the line terminating successively at Schenectady, New York; Ithaca, New York; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Washington, D. C., and the Atlantic coast, the area limited by this line and the coast line will contain the residences of 158 of the 238 members of the academy, or 66 per cent.

A similar line, starting at Cleveland, Ohio, and passing successively through Detroit, Michigan; Madison, Wisconsin; St. Louis, Missouri, and back to Cleveland, will bound an area in which reside 40 members of the academy, or nearly 17 per cent.

In the State of California, at Berkeley, Palo Alto (Stanford), Mount Hamilton, Pasadena and La Jolla, there reside 36 members, or 15 per cent. of the total membership.

In the western two thirds of the United States, that is, west of a north and south line passing through St. Louis, but excluding California, there are three members: one at Iowa City, Iowa; one at Denver, Colorado (retired), and one at Flagstaff, Arizona.

East of a north and south line drawn through St. Louis, and south of a line starting at St. Louis and running through Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Washington and on to the Atlantic coast, one academy member resides—at Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

The three northern states of New England contain no academy members.

The distribution of memberships in the academy seems to deserve the thoughtful consideration of all those who are in any way responsible for the higher educational interests of the nation.

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BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA,
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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE CENTENARIES OF THOMAS YOUNG AND HUMPHRY DAVY¹

Two of the centenaries of greatest scientific interest which occur next year will be those of the deaths of Thomas Young and Sir Humphry Davy, both of whom died in May, 1829, the former in London and the latter at Geneva. The birth of Young took place in 1773, that of Davy in 1778, the centenaries of which, in 1873 and 1878, however, the scientific world allowed to pass without proper recognition. In the case of Davy we commented in our columns at the time on this lack of recognition, adding, "We leave it

to a foreign nation to honor the memory of one of our greatest explorers and to a petty provincial town to commemorate the birth of one of our greatest chemists." It is with interest, therefore, we learn that inquiries are already being made as to what steps are being taken to pay due homage to Young, who was the first to explain the phenomenon of the interference of light, who described the optometer, the precursor of the ophthalmoscope, who first gave the word "energy" its present scientific significance, who provided engineers with "Young's modulus," and who deciphered the Rosetta Stone. Of Davy it is only necessary now to recall his experiments with nitrous oxide, his isolation of potassium and sodium, his determination of the elementary character of chlorine and his invention of the safety lamp.

Both Young and Davy came from the "West Country,"—the former from Somerset, the latter from Cornwall—both became distinguished fellows of the Royal Society, both were connected with the Royal Institution, both were foreign associates of the Paris Academy of Sciences, and both are commemorated in Westminster Abbey. If Young surpassed Davy in the depth and range of his scientific inquiries and his immense learning, Davy by his manipulative skill, his command of language and his poetic imagination secured a popularity denied his great contemporary. Both, however, had a world-wide reputation, and while Davy's work is commemorated by the Davy Medal of the Royal Society, Young's is recognized by "The Thomas Young Oration" of the Optical Society. It is to those societies that the scientific world will look for the initiation of the proper celebration of the centenaries of these eminent men of science.

OLD MAPS AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM

The Geographical Journal, published by the Royal Geographical Society, London, reports that, on the occasion of the International Geographical Congress, Mr. F. P. Sprent, in charge of the map department, arranged an exhibition of manuscript and printed maps in the King's Library of the British Museum. Among the maps exhibited were several of the unique or rare possessions of the museum, which have frequently been described, such as the world map of 1506 drawn by Contarini (the first printed map to show any part of America), the manuscript map of Guiana drawn for Sir Walter Raleigh and Hondius's world map showing Drake's route on his circumnavigation, with the accompanying "Corte Beschryvinghe" and portraits of Drake and Cavendish. In selecting and arranging the maps, Mr. Sprent has succeeded in combining comprehensiveness with variety, for all the continents and most countries are represented, and most types of maps. The opening section contains

¹ From *Nature*.