

SCIENCE

VOL. LXIX FEBRUARY 15, 1929 No. 1781

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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.

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

SOME ASPECTS OF RESEARCH IN THE FIELD OF ENGINEERING AND ITS FINANCIAL SUPPORT, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO CIVIL ENGINEERING AND RELATED FIELDS¹

WHATEVER may be the objectives of Section M of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, it can be concluded with some assurance that connection with a society that is so concerned with the advancement of science makes it not inappropriate to select for the topic of the vice-presidential address, "Some Aspects of Research in the Field of Engineering and Its Financial Support." To distinguish the class of research considered from industrial research and research that is related to such matters as manufacturing, the limitation, "With Particular Reference to Civil Engineering and Related Fields," has been made.

At the beginning, the purposes and control and support of research suggest a classification into (1) research that is so directly related to financial interests of those individuals or corporations in charge and control of the work that it may well be financed by its promoters and supporters, who in turn will receive the main reward of advantage and profit, and (2) research that is more directly related in advantage and value to the public at large or to portions of it or to individuals who may at some time or other utilize the knowledge and advantages of the research but who may not have aided directly in its conduct or support.

The two classes named are, of course, not always distinct from each other, not mutually exclusive in methods and results used and obtained by one another. The privately conducted research gives by-products of scientific information and even includes investigation to discover and establish scientific principles, much of which is given to the public, to the great advantage of scientific progress. The research under public or quasi-public control contributes re-

¹ Address of the retiring vice-president of Section M—Engineering, of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, New York, N. Y., December 29, 1928.

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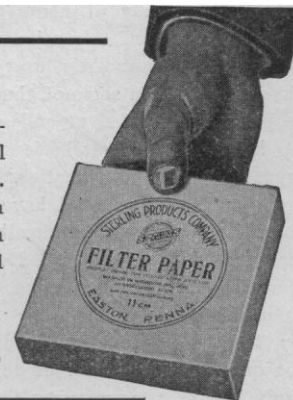
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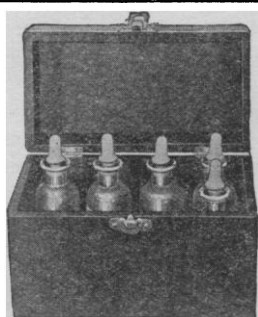
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