SCIENCE

VOL. 73 FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1931 No. 1900

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 GENETIC VIEW-POINT[1]

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$$(A+\frac{hD}{2})\cdot(Z-\frac{hD}{3})$$

THAT I am a retiring president to-night is not my fault. I tried not to do it. I suggested to your secretary that in the future the president of the society make his retiring address the year after he presides and offered to forego or postpone my retiring address this year to set the scheme in operation. Your secretary refused to permit this innovation. (The American Naturalists, I now realize, is one of those societies which is run by the secretary). "I have had trouble enough now," the secretary said, "in trying to explain why the society elected the president they did. If the president should hang over another year before he retired, I should have either to remember the old excuses or to invent new ones. If I had my way," he said, "the formalities of the society would be confined to one day at the annual meeting. Let the president be elected and clothe himself with the insignia of his office in the morning, preside in the afternoon, and retire in the evening, at the Naturalists' dinner. The rest of the year the society can best do without a president altogether, while the secretary runs the society with the aid of his stenographer."

The secretary's arguments were hard to combat. So I tried next to obtain a substitute, an eminent foreign biologist who happened to be on a lecture tour in this country. This suggestion of a substitute met with the immediate (and I might say enthusiastic) approval of the secretary. All seemed working out to the welfare of the society as well as to the pleasure of the secretary, when I received a letter from my

[1] Presidential address delivered at the annual dinner of the American Society of Naturalists, Cleveland, Ohio, January 1, 1931.