

SCIENCE

VOL. 80

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1934

No. 2071

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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 NEW WORLD-PICTURE OF MODERN PHYSICS¹

By Sir JAMES HOPWOOD JEANS

PRESIDENT OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

THE British Association assembles for the third time in Aberdeen—under the happiest of auspices. It is good that we are meeting in Scotland, for the association has a tradition that its Scottish meetings are wholly successful. It is good that we are meeting in the sympathetic atmosphere of a university city, surrounded not only by beautiful and venerable buildings, but also by buildings in which scientific knowledge is being industriously and successfully accumulated. And it is especially good that Aberdeen is rich not only in scientific buildings but also in scientific associations. Most of us can think of some master-mind in his own subject who worked here. My own thoughts, I need hardly say, turn to James Clerk Maxwell.

¹ Presidential address, delivered before the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, Aberdeen, on September 5, 1934.

Whatever our subject, there is one man who will be in our thoughts in a very special sense to-night—Sir William Hardy, whom we had hoped to see in the presidential chair this year. It was not to be, and his early death, while still in the fulness of his powers, casts a shadow in the minds of all of us. We all know of his distinguished work in pure science, and his equally valuable achievements in applied science. I will not try to pay tribute to these, since it has been arranged that others, better qualified than myself, shall do so in a special memorial lecture. Perhaps, however, I may be permitted to bear testimony to the personal qualities of one whom I was proud to call a friend for a large part of my life, and a colleague for many years. Inside the council room, his proposals were always acute, often highly original and invariably worthy of careful consideration; outside, his big

The Foundations of Science

By H. POINCARÉ

Pp. xi + 553.

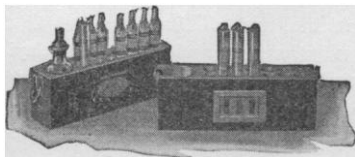
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