SCIENCE

Vol. 81

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 1935

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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.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES¹

By Dr. W. W. CAMPBELL

PRESIDENT EMERITUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. Minister of Norway,

Members of the National Academy and esteemed Guests:

WITH one exception the several speakers of this evening will be formally introduced, and you will observe that their addresses fit into a logical plan. It will make me feel better if I exercise the privilege of telling you that I, as the one exception, am making an address at the request of the academy's council, and not upon my own initiative.

The academy's dinner of each year is attended for the first time by many of its recently elected members. It is a safe guess that those new members have an incomplete understanding of the historic reason for the academy's creation and existence. It was in the mid-

¹ Given at the annual dinner, April 23, 1935.

dle year of our great war between the states, the year 1863, that the United States Government, feeling the need for a definite and responsible organization of the scientists of the nation to which it could go at any time for information and advice on scientific subjects, incorporated and constituted the National Academy of Sciences, by a special Act of Congress. This act, in effect the charter of the academy, is a remarkable document; remarkable in its brevity, its clarity and in my opinion its wisdom.

The first paragraph of the congressional act consists of the statement that fifty American scientists whose names are recorded in alphabetical order, beginning appropriately with Louis Agassiz, of Harvard, on the Atlantic coast, and ending with "J. D. Whitney, California; their associates and successors

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Announcing a forthcoming geography text on EUROPE By SAMUEL VAN VALKENBURG Associate Professor of Geography, Clark University and ELLSWORTH HUNTINGTON Research Associate in Geography, Yale University This new book to be published in July is based in nearly equal proportions upon personal observation, reading, and statistics. It represents the combined viewpoints and methods of a European and an American geographer—something entirely new in geography texts. So carefully has the work been done, however, that the whole book bears the stamp of unity and balance. The text is adapted either to a full year's course or to one lasting but one semester. For the latter, certain omissions are suggested by the authors as containing material more advanced and difficult than the rest or else being purely historical or theoretical. These possible omissions are designed for use with relatively advanced students and are intended to serve as an introduction to topics that need further study from other sources. Part I begins with a general consideration of Europe as a continent, then takes up a comprehensive description of the climate, appearance, and main natural regions of the continent as a whole. This discussion paves the way for the detailed treatment of individual countries in Part II. The book includes chapters on soil, vegetation, commerce, population, and discussions on the political status, historical interest, and typical character of the various countries. A full bibliography is given at the back of the book. There is an unusually large number of maps, most of which are original and illustrate phases of geography not hitherto treated. "Van Valkenburg and Huntington" should appeal to teachers of college geography in particular, as an excellent basic textbook in the geography of Europe. It is, also, suitable for use as supplementary reading material in history courses. Approximately 664 pages 6 x 9 Probable price, \$4.50 JOHN WILEY & SONS, INC., 440 FOURTH AVE., NEW YORK