new division for the Social and International Relations of Science at the Royal Institution on May 25. Professor Ernest Barker, professor of political science at the University of Cambridge, and Sir Daniel Hall, formerly chief scientific adviser to the Ministry of Agriculture, were the principal speakers. Sir Richard Gregory was in the chair. The object of the meeting was to show how science and society are "out of gear," and to explain the nature of the task that the division has undertaken in trying to bring about an adjustment. Professor Barker spoke on "The Impacts of Science on Society," and Sir Daniel Hall on the application of science to agriculture. Sir Richard Gregory dealt with the work of the division. The meeting was intended for workers in every branch of science with a view to securing their interest and cooperation in the work of the division, which at present is concerned with questions of nutrition, population, social psychology, the organization of science and the international relations of science. A committee has also been appointed to report on the world sources of raw materials.

THE Department of Agriculture awarded an $842,000 contract on May 25 for construction of an eastern regional research laboratory at Wyndmoor, Pa. The contract calls for completion in four hundred days of the entire administration unit, together with nine sections of the chemical laboratory wing, and the entire service building and power plant.

THE cornerstone of Fuld Hall of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton was laid on May 22 by Miss Lavinia Bamberger, sister of Louis Bamberger, co-founder of the institute. The building is being erected at a cost of $500,000, on a 400-acre tract of land on the southwest outskirts of the Borough of Princeton. The hall is expected to be completed in time for the opening of the fall term. Fuld Hall, named in honor of the late Felix Fuld, is being constructed of red brick in colonial design. When completed it will contain separate studies for each faculty member and student of the institute's three units, besides administration quarters, seminar rooms, lounges and a library.

DISCUSSION

BIRTH PAINS OF THE ASSOCIATION

ONE hundred years ago, in 1839, *The Family Magazine, or Monthly Abstract of General Knowledge* published the following article on the organization of a national scientific society. This magazine was published at Boston by J. S. Redfield, first president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

I am indebted to Mr. Joseph A. Sadony, Valley of the Pines, Montague, Mich., for the reference and the following quotation. Such words from leaders among our predecessors of a century ago emphasize the enormous changes that have taken place within three generations.

F. R. MOULTON,
Permanent Secretary

NATIONAL SCIENTIFICK ASSOCIATION

When the proposition was made, in February last, to the Massachusetts Medical Society, to open a correspondence with other similar bodies, upon the expediency of organizing a national association for the advancement of the physical sciences, there were gentlemen who expressed an opinion that the movement was premature; and further, it was maintained that no very marked discoveries or brilliant achievements had resulted from such combinations of the learned in other countries. On the other hand, all important and really striking and meritorious advances in science, literature and the arts, were made, it was contended, in the quiet of the closet, by those who hardly identified themselves with the busy world. In fine, nothing of importance to the promotion of science had emanated from these modern much-talked-of-compacts of the old world.

With a variety of theories and individual presentiments, none of which, by others, were considered of much consequence, it is sufficient to say that the project was rather coldly received, and ultimately quashed in embryo by the committee to whom the matter was referred by consideration. Now it is morally certain that by a little exertion, a successful plan of operation might, by this time, have been devised, and a vigorous co-operation manifested in every state in the union.

The idea that we were too young, as a people, for such a vast undertaking, was preposterous in the extreme. Whoever reflects upon the character of the present age, the spirit that animates all ranks of inhabitants, the impulse given the nation by transatlantick influences, in all departments of life, can not resist the conviction that the same system of perseverance which distinguishes the efforts of civilized man in Europe, will and must be felt in America. With a vast territory, the resources of which are almost incalculable, a consolidation of interests in science, of all the available forces, from the college to the cottage, can alone develop the geological and physical constitution, capabilities and concealed wonders, of this great portion of the habitable globe.

As predicted, another effort is making to rally the learned of the United States around one common centre, to unite in an enterprise which must gratify every friend of science; and of its final success, there is scarcely a remaining doubt, notwithstanding the objections which have heretofore been urged against a scheme so praiseworthy and meritorious. A meeting was held at the hall

of the American Academy in this city, a short time since, at which Governour Everett presided, to discuss the propriety of the measure, and a committee was appointed to consult with the Philosophical Society of Philadelphia; and thus the lines are laid, which we fervently hope will speedily eventuate in the establishment of a national association for the promotion of the physical sciences—founded in motives as noble and acceptable to the world as were those which originated the association now existing in England, the organization of which constitutes a new era in the history of that nation. It is to be deplored that our Medical Society did not secure to itself, when the opportunity presented, the honour of having carried into effect this excellent proposition, which might have been done with most perfect ease, and consistently, too, with its character of a scientifick body. For it is evident that practical and enlightened physicians, in all countries, are among the most zealous cultivators of learning and science; and we noticed, upon the occasion alluded to, that of the twenty-seven individuals present, thirteen were members of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GOOSE LAKE, CALIFORNIA, METEORITE

THROUGH the cooperation of several of the officers and the fellows of the Society for Research on Meteorites, namely, Dr. and Mrs. H. H. Nininger, of the Colorado Museum of Natural History and the American Meteorite Laboratory, Denver, Professor Earle G. Linsley, of the Chabot Observatory and Mills College, Oakland, Calif., Dr. Robert W. Webb, of the Department of Geology of the University of California, Los Angeles, and the writer, the largest meteorite discovered up to date in the state of California and probably the fifth largest known to have fallen in the United States, has recently been identified and has just been recovered. The meteorite, which is an iron or siderite, was found on October 13, 1938, by Messrs. Joseph Secco, Clarence A. Schmidt and Ira Iverson, of Oakland, Calif., while hunting deer at a place in northern Modoc County, about two miles west of the western shore of Goose Lake and 1¼ miles south of the California-Oregon state line (coordinates approximately, longitude W. 120° 32′ .5, latitude N. 41° 58′ .6). The meteorite was removed from the place of fall on May 3 and 4, 1939, by a party of which the aforementioned scientists were members. Since the specimen was located in the Modoc National Forest, it is the property of the Smithsonian Institution and the United States National Museum; however, through the kindness of Dr. Alexander Wetmore, the assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, the body will be on exhibition at the Golden Gate International Exposition in San Francisco until the conclusion of the fair.

The over-all dimensions of the meteorite, which is a very irregular mass, deeply pitted, perforated and unoriented, and which resembles in shape nothing more than a gigantic molar tooth, are 3 feet 10 inches × 2 feet 4½ inches × 1 foot 8 inches. The measured weight is 2,573 pounds. Etching the polished surface of a small fragment with dilute nitric acid revealed the characteristic Widmanstätten figures, which indicate that the specimen is a medium octahedrite. The more weathered parts of the meteorite are maroon, while the portions which have lain near or in contact with the soil are cinnamon-brown or rusty. Because all the original fusion crust is missing, we conclude that the fall occurred probably many years ago. The meteorite lay in the center of an almost circular, saucer-like depression or "crater," about five feet in diameter and one foot deep. This formation was the only visible evidence, if evidence it was, of the impact of the body with the ground. As no postoffice is situated within a radius of several miles of the spot where the meteorite was discovered, and it was not near any well-known geographical feature other than Goose Lake, it shall be called the Goose Lake, Modoc County, Calif., meteorite.

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A PARASITE OF THE PUERTO RICAN MOLE-CRICKET

To the record of successful establishments in Puerto Rico of predators attacking insect pests, such as that of the giant Surinam toad, *Bufo marinus* L., largely feeding on native species of May beetles, and of Australian lady-beetles, *Cryptolaemus montrouzieri* Mulsant attacking exposed mealybugs, and *Rodolia* (*Vedalia*) *cardinalis* Mulsant attacking cottony cushion scale, may now be added that of a large wasp, *Larra americana* Saussure, a specific parasite of the changa, (or Puerto Rican mole-cricket, *Scapteriscus vicinus* Scudder).

The changa is not native to Puerto Rico, but occurs throughout most of tropical South America, and is presumably so destructively abundant in Puerto Rico, attacking tobacco, vegetable crops and even sugar-cane in sandy soils, because of the absence here of its natural enemies. Its parasite, *Larra americana,* occurs most conveniently for collection and shipment by airplane at Belem, Pará, Brazil. A successful method of shipping the live wasps, by including with them a screened cage of live parasitized mole-crickets, has been briefly reported,[1] as well as a more extended account of the entire project up to February, 1938.[2] Whether including live parasitized changas with each sending of the wasps is really the reason why the latter remain alive in captivity was not determined by later experiments, but out of 420 wasps sent thus from Belem in May and

[1] SCIENCE, 87: 355, 1938.
[2] *Jour. Agr. Univ. Puerto Rico,* 22: 193–218, 1938.