

in addition to the Bureau of the Census. Next in the list are one state agency, and 37 nongovernmental agencies, from the American Bankers Association to the Western Union Telegraph Company. Of the 37, all are commercial organizations except two: the American Medical Association and the National Bureau of Economic Research. Though the nongovernmental agencies listed comprise over one-third of the total number, they provide only a small fraction of the total mass of data.

While the Federal Government is now supporting and administering, apart from the collection of data, a substantial portion of social science research in the United States, it is the mainstay of such research in the provision of basic statistical information for the social sciences.

There is perhaps no good reason why the more or less routine collection of statistical data which may reasonably be supported from Federal funds should be administered by other agencies, and there are good reasons for centralizing responsibility for such collection. It is important, however, that the Federal agencies collecting data should be responsive to the needs and wishes of independent research workers and groups of workers, readily giving consideration to proposed changes in practice.

Some of the governmental collection agencies have provided for advisory committees through which nongovernmental social scientists are represented and given a voice in the planning of data collection. Another avenue through which nongovernmental interests may gain a hearing is the important and very useful Division of Statistical Standards of the Bureau of the Budget, which exercises general supervision over collection of statistical data by all branches of

the Federal Government, is very capably staffed, and takes a broad view of the functions of Federal agencies in collection of statistics. It might not be inappropriate, however, to have more specific and formal recognition than now exists of the function of governmental data collection as a service for social scientists generally.

If routine collection of data should be largely in government hands, it does not necessarily follow that collection of data for special research purposes should likewise be so concentrated. A new governmental activity is hard to get started. One reason that it should be so is that it may also be hard to stop. Research needs to be flexible. It needs to be implemented by a large measure of freedom for men with ideas to act, without too much interference from minor administrative officials, whose sense of importance may exceed their capacity for wise supervision of scientific research. Research does not fit comfortably into the pattern of governmental administrative routine.

Collection of statistical data for special research purposes is a continually recurring need of the social sciences, corresponding in many respects to the need for performing experiments in the natural sciences. Facilities for such collection of special data should be available to workers in the social sciences, so far as possible, with only such restrictions as have been found appropriate on the use of facilities for experimentation in the natural sciences. A chemist in a university would labor under a handicap if he had to arrange that any large experiment from which he needed data be conducted in a government laboratory in Washington.

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## Association Affairs

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### Call for Papers

113th Meeting, Boston, 26-31 December 1946

*Persons desiring to present papers* at the Boston Meeting of the AAAS and its affiliated societies are requested to notify at an early date the secretaries of the sections and societies before which they wish to report their work. The secretaries will be aided in their acceptance of papers if each speaker will enclose with the notice an abstract describing the purpose of the investigation, the nature of the results obtained,

and the relations of the results to earlier investigations. It is not necessary that those presenting papers be members of the Association.

Copy for the *General Program* of the meeting is due in the Washington office of the Association by 21 October; titles of papers should be submitted without delay to the secretaries in order that those accepted may be included in the printed program.

## SECTION SECRETARIES

*Mathematics*—Prof. Raymond W. Brink, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

*Physics*—Dr. Joseph C. Boyce, New York University, New York City.

*Chemistry*—Office of the Administrative Secretary, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington 25, D. C.

*Astronomy*—Dr. Charles C. Wylie, State University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.

*Geology and Geography*—Dr. George W. White, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

*Zoological Sciences*—Dr. J. William Buchanan, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois.

*Botanical Sciences*—Prof. George W. Martin, State University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.

*Anthropology*—Dr. Marian W. Smith, Columbia University, New York City.

*Psychology*—Dr. Harold E. Burt, The Ohio State

University, Columbus, Ohio. (See special announcement below.)

*Social and Economic Sciences*—Dr. Bruce L. Melvin, 1355 Ingraham St., N.W., Washington, D. C.

*History and Philosophy of Science*—Dr. Raymond J. Seeger, Wetherhill Rd., Washington 16, D. C.

*Engineering*—Prof. Frank D. Carvin, Newark College of Engineering, Newark, New Jersey.

*Medical Sciences*—Dr. Malcolm Soule, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

*Subsection on Dentistry*—Dr. Isaac Schour, University of Illinois College of Dentistry, Chicago, Illinois.

*Subsection on Pharmacy*—Dr. Glenn L. Jenkins, Purdue University School of Pharmacy, Lafayette, Indiana.

*Agriculture*—Prof. E. E. DeTurk, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois.

*Education*—Prof. D. A. Worcester, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska.

## Special Notices

*Members of Section I* (Psychology) wishing to present papers should send abstracts to the secretary, Harold E. Burt, Department of Psychology, The Ohio State University, Columbus 10, Ohio. Abstracts, which should be in triplicate and not over 200 words, will not be considered if they are received after 15 September. If slides, chart, or blackboard are necessary, a statement to that effect should appear at the end of the abstract. In the case of slides, please specify whether they are standard or 2×2 size. Moving pictures will not be shown in conjunction with the papers, but they may be scheduled in connection with Science Exhibition.

*A motion picture theater will be set up* in the Science Exhibition area at the First Corps Cadet Armory. The Committee on Exhibits is interested in receiving applications from scientists who have taken motion pictures of original research in the laboratory or in the field for exhibition. Films concerned with scientific research or scientific supplies prepared by commercial organizations will be considered. Equipment will also be available for showing slides. Applications for a place on the projection schedule should be obtained from: Theo. J. Christensen, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Massachusetts and Nebraska Avenues, N.W., Washington 16, D. C.

## Judges Named for AAAS-George Westinghouse Science Writing Award

The Managing Committee of the AAAS-George Westinghouse Science Writing Award has announced the names of the seven judges who will select the winner for the year 1946. Morris Meister, director of the National Science Teachers Association and principal of the Bronx High School of Science, is chairman. Serving with Dr. Meister are two newspaper editors: Wilbur Forrest, of the *New York Herald Tribune* and president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, and W. S. Gilmore, of the *Detroit News* and past president of ASNE. The AAAS is represented by James B. Conant and Anton J. Carlson. The two additional judges representing the public are Miss Sally Butler, president of the

National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, and Senator Elbert D. Thomas of Utah, chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee and a member of the AAAS.

The Science Writing Award consists of a \$1,000 prize to the writer of the newspaper science story which wins the approval of the judges. A certificate of merit goes to the newspaper. The funds for this purpose were provided by the Westinghouse Educational Foundation and are administered by the AAAS through a committee. Entry blanks and rules governing the competition may be secured from W. L. Valentine, chairman of the Committee, Massachusetts and Nebraska Avenues, N.W., Washington 16, D. C.