

The Membership Campaign

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DESPITE THE FACT THAT MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES have been curtailed because of preparations for the Centenary, marked progress has been made within the past two months toward the centennial goal of 15,000 new members in 1948. The number of persons who have joined the Association this year is now in excess of 11,000, and it is expected that the activities of more than 200 local committees will result in the attainment of the 15,000 goal before the end of the year. Lists of prospective members sent by the local membership committees reach this office, daily. These vary from proposed nominees to names of persons who have indicated their desire to join the Association. Approaches are being made through articles in local newspapers, house organs, and other publications and by announcements at meetings and over the air by way of university radio stations.

Interest in the membership campaign has stimulated the organization of local AAAS chapters in Richmond, Virginia; Springfield, Massachusetts; Queens County, Long Island; and Baltimore, Maryland. Temporary officers have been installed for the inauguration of many other chapters. Some of the chapters have already held meetings; others of more recent origin are planning programs for the months immediately ahead.

The Baltimore chapter, for example, held its first meeting at the University of Baltimore on September 3. The second meeting, attracting 80 persons, convened October 15 on the campus of The Johns Hopkins University to discuss "Personality, Analysis, and Adjustment." The November session will center about the use of atomic energy and its social and industrial implications. Both members and nonmembers of the Association are invited to attend the Baltimore meetings.

The Springfield chapter held its first meeting on November 4. Keynote of the accompanying exhibition was "Science in Industry," the proceeds from which will be used to cover the costs of the meeting and to establish a scholarship fund for "some deserving graduate of any of the city's high schools."

The adopted method of financing local activities is through the payment of nominal annual dues (\$1.00 to \$2.00) by the chapter members. Present high

operating costs prevent outright financial assistance by the Association, other than for incidental expenditures attendant on the work of the organizing committees.

A uniform organization for the governing body of each chapter has not been established, but the pattern of administration of the Association will serve as a guide to help insure equal representation among the various sciences. In addition to the elected administrative officers of a chapter, two members, a chairman and a secretary, may be elected as committeemen to represent each of the Association's 16 sections, such as the Sections on Mathematics, Physics, Geology, Botany, Medicine, and Education, and to serve *ex-officio* on the Chapter Council. The secretaries of the local semiprofessional and professional scientific societies may also be approached to serve on the Chapter Council and be *ex-officio* members of the section committees according to their fields of interest. The responsibility for organizing meetings, preferably of the symposium type, could then be rotated among the section committees. The number of meetings to be held annually would be subject to the decision of the local council. They could be planned in cooperation with the state academies in order to coordinate and strengthen the scientific activities within each state.

The rapid growth of the Association reflects the mounting interest of men and women, both as scientists and as humanitarians, in accepting the unusual responsibilities created by recent developments in the pure and applied sciences. Through the medium of local chapters the opportunity is developing for the widespread integration of knowledge and thinking that can be reflected nationally and internationally by way of the Association's periodicals and through its representatives. Properly nurtured, the local chapters will become community enterprises of great importance, and they will strongly root the parent organization as a sounding board of a great cross section of American scientific opinion. As it grows internally, so also will the Association be able to cooperate more effectively with its sister societies throughout the world. In 1951 the AAAS will hold a joint meeting at Toronto, Canada, with the British and the French-Canadian Associations for the Advancement of Science.