

kind. For such a campaign the regular professional army is not enough. We need volunteers, too, and many of them. Let us undertake, for our good and theirs, to mobilize a great body of such recruits. Let

us aid in directing their energies into the high adventure with the universe which science is. Let us help, through the brotherhood of science, to promote the brotherhood of man.

*Address of the Retiring President of the AAAS, delivered on the evening of December 28, 1949, at the 116th Meeting of the Association, in New York City.*

## The 102nd Year of the AAAS

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AT THE MIDPOINT of the 20th century, the American Association for the Advancement of Science can look back upon its achievements and remarkable growth. In the early days of its existence, it was a society whose divisions represented the chief organization for each science and at its meetings all scientists gathered together to present the results of recent research in each of their respective branches. As the number of scientists in particular fields increased, it was natural for independent societies to grow and new ones to be created which had meetings apart from those of the AAAS. There are now national organizations representing practically every division of the Association. The great growth of science in the United States has necessitated this cleavage and made imperative the formation of such societies. Few cities can provide adequate facilities for the meeting of as many as ten thousand scientists. Moreover, much smaller groups lend themselves more effectively to the widening of acquaintanceship and to technical discussions. Nevertheless, the old divisions of the AAAS are still actively functioning and have attractive programs at each meeting. The Association, as it did in the early days, provides opportunities for scientists in different fields to meet each other.

While these larger groups of scientists have been establishing societies of their own, many new smaller scientific organizations, often in specialized fields, have joined the Association as associated societies or as affiliates. The AAAS offers to these organizations a service which they could not maintain independently.

Today, upon entering its 102nd year, the Association is stronger than ever before, with its fifteen divisions, 87 associated societies, and 128 affiliates. It has not succumbed to the vicissitudes of the war and

postwar years. A nominal advance in dues, a big increase in the membership, economies in the Washington office, and a larger advertising revenue have made it possible to operate with effectiveness and without a deficit, even though more income would permit merited additional functions. The membership is in the neighborhood of 45,000. The journals are successful and the symposia volumes have filled a need, besides proving profitable.

What may be expected in the future? The Association may look forward with optimism. Every effort will be made to improve *Science* to the point where it is in demand by all scientists. It is anticipated that the *Scientific Monthly* may eventually reach many more readers among the general public. The potentialities of these two journals are great.

Among the current functions of the Association may be mentioned the sponsorship for many years of the Gordon Research Conferences in Chemistry. Six to ten conferences have been held each summer with extraordinary success, and in the summer of 1950 the number will be increased to 15. Attendance is limited in order that the meetings may be kept strictly discussional. There is demand by chemists all over the country for invitations to these meetings and the conferences have had a far-reaching influence. For the Westinghouse Company, the AAAS has administered the annual Science Writing Awards, for excellence in science writing and distinguished science journalism. Since 1944, it has sponsored the Cooperative Committee on Science Teaching, of which a member of the Executive Committee, Karl Lark-Horovitz, has been chairman. Junior academies of science, composed of high school students, have been formed in about half the states of the union under the leadership of the AAAS, the state academies, and the public

school system. In these junior organizations the Association has a parental interest of which it is justly proud. Science Service was instrumental in the formation of various state science clubs, and the AAAS has cooperated by offering to the members of these clubs special honorary memberships in the Association. As early as 1898 it was forcefully advocated that local branches of the AAAS be established. But only recently have formal and active steps been taken to encourage their formation, either through the state academies or by direct petition to the Executive Committee of the AAAS. These illustrations typify the activities in which the Association has been engaged and what it may do in various areas. Such activities will be continued and new projects will be undertaken as the opportunity offers.

The meetings of the Association in the coming years may gradually change in character. The large number of papers presented in specialized fields is likely to become smaller, and papers spanning more than one field may increase accordingly. More symposia may be anticipated, in which men from many branches of science will take part.

The housing of the central offices of the AAAS has been a problem for many years. Because of the generosity of the Smithsonian Institution, rooms were provided in that building without cost. This space was outgrown as the functions and size of the Association expanded. Through the foresight of F. R. Moulton, former Administrative Secretary of the As-

sociation, a very desirable site in Washington, bounded by Massachusetts Avenue, Fifteenth Street, N Street, and Scott Circle, was found and later purchased from funds contributed by the members and from Association reserves. Headquarters were moved to one of the five buildings on the property and the others were rented. The one now occupied was not designed for offices and is in poor repair. Already more space is needed. To attempt to rehabilitate the present old dwellings would be very expensive and even when completed they would be unsatisfactory. The Executive Committee believes it opportune now to solicit funds for razing the present brick dwellings and for construction of a home worthy of the Association. The Washington force would then be able to operate far more comfortably and effectively than at present. With the concerted help of the membership, the goal can be attained.

The AAAS must be a mobile organization and of necessity dynamic, ready to serve science in the best way possible. Its policies must be adequately flexible to provide for changes with the times and the desires of its constituent units. During these days of international ferment in which the United States is involved, continued sturdiness in all scientific fields is essential insurance. The American Association for the Advancement of Science is playing a major role in bringing together scientists in different fields and in sponsoring activities which will strengthen science and the scientific roster of the country.

