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(Terms expire June 30, 1952)

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The Association's Program

AT THE Executive Committee meeting in Bloomington, Indiana, June 30–July 1, critical attention was focused on the broad connotations of the Association's program of activity. Its diversity is evident enough, as a summary of the more important items of business will indicate:

Pursuant to the vote of the Council, which approved creation of an Alaska Division 198 to 1, the Committee authorized the establishment of a Southeastern Branch at Juneau; appropriated funds to enable the Division to carry on regular business and to organize the Second Alaskan Science Conference; and instructed Kirtley Mather to act with Governor Gruening at official installation ceremonies at the opening of the conference September 4 in Mount McKinley National Park.

Since the Council had also voted 191 to 7 to establish a Section P on Industrial Science, the Executive Committee appointed N. V. Hendricks, of Esso Laboratories, to serve as secretary, Allen D. Brandt, of Bethlehem Steel Company, to act as 1951 chairman, and Paul E. Klopsteg to function as committeeman until the new section is organized. Detlev W. Bronk was chosen to install Section P at the Annual Meeting in Philadelphia next December.

Association meetings received their share of attention. Drs. Mather and Meyerhoff reported on those of the Southwestern Division at El Paso and the Pacific Division at Los Angeles. Symposia for the Philadelphia convention were discussed, and prospects and problems of the St. Louis (1952) and Boston (1953) meetings were previewed.

The Association's publications were considered at length. Members of the Editorial Board were reappointed, but it was agreed to add a few editorial consultants, whose principal function will be to assist in the diversification of the content of *SCIENCE*. The continued rapid increase in the circulation of *THE SCIENTIFIC MONTHLY* was noted, as was the popularity of the two recent symposium volumes—*Brucellosis* and

The Pituitary-Adrenal Function. In considering four new proposals for special volumes, the Executive Committee affirmed that the Association will not compete in book publishing with commercial concerns but will limit itself to books important to scientists.

Among other matters examined were the Association's modest support of research, its cooperative activities with other organizations, its relations with 223 affiliated and associated societies, its Gordon Research Conferences, and its support of the work sponsored by the Cooperative Committee on the Teaching of Science and Mathematics.

Despite the ramifications of a program involving meetings, publication, and service to science and scientists in this country and abroad, the committee welcomed a recommendation of three members that there be a "total analysis of the work of the AAAS" to determine "what must be done to advance science from the point at which it stands in June 1951." Without a dissenting vote or adverse argument the committee agreed to assess the entire program of activity in a three-day session immediately preceding the regular meeting in mid-September. A few of the Association's "best friends and severest critics" will be invited to sit with the full Executive Committee for the purpose of reviewing current activities and appraising them as an organizational program in keeping with the requirements of the times.

It is not assumed that anything is organically wrong. The proposed survey is analogous to a medical check-up whereby the patient may learn that he is in excellent health, and that he can maintain or improve this state by simple, salutary measures. No one has illusions about the possibility of improvement in the Association's program, and there is no question but what activities can be greatly expanded. Whatever is planned must be within the Association's modest financial means, but the Executive Committee wants the best it can provide for science within the means at its disposal.

HOWARD A. MEYERHOFF

Administrative Secretary

SCIENCE, founded in 1880, is published each Friday by the American Association for the Advancement of Science at the Business Press, 10 McGovern Ave., Lancaster, Pa. Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Lancaster, Pa., January 13, 1948, under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at the special rate postage provided for in the Act of February 28, 1925, embodied in Paragraph (d-2) Section 34.40 P. L. & R. of 1948.

All correspondence should be sent to *SCIENCE*, 1515 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington 5, D. C. The AAAS assumes no responsibility for the safety of manuscripts or for the opinions expressed by contributors. Four weeks'

notice is required for change of address, and an address stencil label from a recent issue must be furnished. Claims for a missing number will be allowed only if received within 60 days from date of issue.

Annual subscriptions, \$7.50; single copies, \$.25; foreign postage, outside the Pan-American Union, \$1.00; Canadian postage, \$.50. Special rates to members of the AAAS.

The AAAS also publishes *THE SCIENTIFIC MONTHLY*. Subscription and advertising rates on request.