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## Boston, 1953

**T**HERE is no substance to the rumor that the AAAS staff relaxes or leaves on winter vacations as soon as the Christmas meeting of the Association is over. Work on the next annual meeting fits into the administration schedule as tightly and as quickly as an interchangeable part in a piece of machinery, which, with some adjustments for the new job to be done, continues to function with little more than a momentary pause.

The story of any annual meeting spreads over several years, as the case of Boston illustrates. As far back as the spring of 1950, Raymond L. Taylor studied The Hub's physical facilities and tentatively reserved all of them for Association use in December 1953. The AAAS Executive Committee designated Boston as the 1953 meeting place in October 1950; and promptly thereafter the tentative arrangements made by Dr. Taylor were confirmed. Correspondence was then started to stimulate thinking on the broader aspects of the program.

In late 1952, despite preoccupation with the final details of the St. Louis convention, the tempo was accelerated. Earl P. Stevenson, president of Arthur D. Little, Inc., agreed to serve as General Chairman of the Local Committee; and James B. Conant and James R. Killian readily agreed to work with Dr. Stevenson in the capacity of vice-chairmen. This situation was, of course, altered when Dr. Conant resigned from the presidency of Harvard to accept appointment as U. S. High Commissioner for Germany, but not before he had made several invaluable suggestions. Among them was the thought that, as a thread running through the fabric of the meeting, some such theme as "The Interface of Land and Sea" would enable the Association to make the most of the New England environment and of a special field of investigation in some of its institutions.

Meanwhile several affiliated societies have given

thought to the feasibility of meeting with the Association at Boston, and a few—the American Society of Zoologists, the Society of Systematic Zoology, the American Society of Naturalists, Genetics Society of America, the American Society of Human Genetics, the science teachers, and others—have decided in favor of it, and at least a score more have indicated their interest in participating.

Although fewer than five weeks of 1953 have elapsed as this issue of *SCIENCE* goes to press, key posts on the Local Committee have been filled, the personnel of the Symposium Committee has been selected, meetings of these committees and their subcommittees have been scheduled for early March, floor plans and contracts for booth space at the Exposition are ready to go to the printer for distribution March 15, specific programs are taking form—and administrative thoughts wander, perhaps from force of habit, to the Golden Gate and 1954, where the machinery is running smoothly—although idling—in preparation for the Association's first national meeting on the Pacific rim.

If there is no substance to the rumor of post-convention relaxation for the staff, there is even less to the unfounded impression that the Association's meetings are "outmoded," that its "programs have grown 'thinner'." Neither facts nor figures bear out these defeatist statements. Where else but at a AAAS convention can engineers, biologists, psychologists, industrialists, physical scientists, and public leaders assemble to consider Disaster Recovery? Or the Interface of Land and Sea? Or Problems of the Pacific Rim? It is not the Association that lags, but those who fail to comprehend the scope and the impact of its current program. Intellectual bankruptcy and deterioration will indeed set in if the AAAS turns from programming important science merely to ballyhooing the importance of science.

HOWARD A. MEYERHOFF

*Administrative Secretary*

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