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## The American Association for the Advancement of Science

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE is an organization that has roughly fifty thousand individual members, and that represents affiliations with nearly two hundred scientific societies and academies. The Association has great potentialities for service to individual scientists, scientific groups, to science in general, and to our modern democratic society. It is the deep wish and the firm intention of the officers of the Association to do all in their power to help realize these potentialities.

To move forward with constructive and wise developments will require the best thinking of all the membership—hard and serious thinking, objective and loyal thinking. It will require imagination and the courage to run some risks in the attempt to serve great ends. We are confident that these qualities will be available to serve our Association.

In a situation such as ours, there is always danger that some members fear that changes will be too abrupt and too revolutionary, while many others are disappointed because there seems to be no progress. We ask for both confidence and patience. To the members of the first group we want to say that there is not, and never has been, so far as we know, any

desire to bring about change that would be disruptive either in tempo or character. To the members of the second group we want to say that progress toward the Arden House goals is necessarily and properly slow; even though that progress has not become evident as yet, or in any event has not been publicly acclaimed, it is occurring.

Although it is the expressed will of the Association, as evidenced by the unanimous vote of the Council in favor of the Arden House policy, to alter, to modernize, and to enliven the annual meetings of the AAAS, we wish to caution that these changes should be worked out sensibly and gradually, proceeding by trial so that it can be assured that the meetings do in fact furnish that sort of inspiring contact with all of science which, we are sure, is desired by the membership.

In particular it is clear that for the time being it is important to include, at the big annual meeting, a certain body of short reports of current research in specialized fields. We bespeak, for our Association and, particularly, for the meeting in Boston this next winter, a full and active participation. We pledge that we will do our utmost to see to it that the Association, in all branches of its work, deserves your active support.

DETLEV W. BRONK, *Retiring President*

E. U. CONDON, *President*

WARREN WEAVER, *President-Elect*

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.

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