



Ruth C. Christman  
Acting Executive Editor

**AAAS EDITORIAL BOARD**  
(Terms expire June 30, 1954)

**Bentley Glass, Acting Chairman**

Mark H. Adams      Karl Lark-Horovitz  
William R. Amberson      Edwin M. Lerner  
Wallace R. Brode      Walter J. Nickerson  
F. A. Moulton, Advertising Representative

## British Association for the Advancement of Science

THE British Association for the Advancement of Science, affectionately known in the United Kingdom as "the British Ass," held its 115th Annual Meeting in Liverpool, September 2-9, 1953, with some 3500 scientific leaders and laymen attending. With the University of Liverpool as institutional host, the city provided a wealth of excursions to intellectual and industrial establishments and sponsored many dignified social functions. The meeting was opened with an academic pageant at which honorary degrees were conferred on Sir Edward Appleton, President of the Association and Nobelate in cosmic physics, Sir Harold Jeffreys, noted geophysicist, and Mr. Robert Birley, Headmaster of Eton. In his Presidential Address, delivered after the graduation ceremony and broadcast in the Home Service of the B.B.C., Sir Edward Appleton emphasized what is sometimes overlooked—that science has interest as well as utility, is illuminating as well as fruitful, can enlarge man's horizons and invest the universe with deeper significance. His address won the enthusiastic thanks of Professor A. V. Hill, immediate Past President.

Since the B.A.A.S. "aims to present science to the public," the program of over 300 items contained some 40 lectures and reports especially designed for students and laymen. These included the addresses of Section Chairmen, as well as special evening discourses on such subjects as Powered Flight, Mount Everest, and Science and the Unpredictable. A symposium on The Deep Sea Floor and the History of the Earth was arranged by the International Joint Commission on Oceanography, and included discussions on uranium in sea deposits, heat flow in the oceans, climatic change from deep sea cores, and oxygen content of deep waters. Probably because teaching exhibits are so generally a part of regular British science training, there were only a couple of special exhibits, on calculating machines, and on oil production, and practically no commercial exhibits except books.

Joint sessions were fruitfully arranged by several of the sections. These included considerations of cybernetics, underwater observations, the continental shelf, business decisions under uncertainty, time and motion, ruminant digestion, carotenoids, athletic training, afforestation, and

atmospheric pollution. Reflecting the practical industrial environment of the meeting were discussions on collaboration of industries and universities in management training, and on recruitment of scientists. Lord Dudley Gordon, in commenting on the future of engineering, referred to such possible power sources as nuclear energy, tides, and gravity. Professor D. W. Harding emphasized the importance of psychology in scientific enterprise and social progress. Dr. T. Moore described sex differences in the distribution of carotene and vitamin A with variations in disease. Mr. B. J. Mason offered evidence that formation of ice pellets in clouds gives rise to lightning. Professor F. W. Paish indicated that higher output per person employed is the best way to end inflation. Professor R. H. Kinvig reported no evidence of "racial" purity. Mr. J. R. Rossiter described the North Sea storm surge of January 31, 1953. Chemotherapy and antibiotics were reviewed by Doctor B. A. Hems, Doctor F. L. Rose, and Professor B. G. Maegraith. Doctor R. Hurst discussed synthetic elements produced by nuclear reactors. Doctor C. T. Trechman analyzed the mountain uplift problem with an explanation based on lunar gravitation and oceanic pressure. Professor R. M. Gordon and Dr. W. E. Kershaw surveyed the spread of filariasis. Mr. J. D. Boatman described organic decomposition in natural soils.

The few details selected from 300 communications indicate the broad scope of section activities, and the clear endeavor to keep the program at a reasonable level of popular interest and understanding. This feature of B.A.A.S. meetings is reflected in the full reporting given in all the leading newspapers of the United Kingdom. As a result, there is wide appreciation of and support for scientific endeavor in all parts of the British Isles, with a general atmosphere of respect for sound scientific achievement in which the average citizen has a sense of participation.

The smooth functioning and pleasant social spirit of B.A.A.S. meetings are traditional, and are being well maintained by an efficient secretariat under the direction of Mr. David N. Lowe. Dr. E. D. Adrian, Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, was elected President for 1954. The annual meeting will be held in Oxford, September 1-8. Scientists of the Americas who may be in England at the time will be cordially welcomed, and, if they attend, are certain to have a rewarding experience.

CHAUNCEY D. LEAKE

*University of Texas, Medical Branch*

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.

Cable address: ADVANCESCI.