

Association Affairs

Association Business

Much of the business of the AAAS is conducted by the Board of Directors at meetings held four times a year. Minutes of the Board's meetings are sent to members of the Council to keep them informed of problems as they arise and decisions as they are made. But the Association as a whole has only the formal published reports of the annual meetings and occasional accounts of other particularly important items. That hardly seems enough. At the March meeting of the Board of Directors it was agreed that more frequent reporting to the entire membership was desirable. I do not want to write a regular monthly or weekly "column," but the Board agreed that from time to time I should publish in *Science* and *The Scientific Monthly* informal accounts of some of the problems, decisions, or other items of business before the Association.

The matter of a new building for AAAS headquarters has been under consideration ever since the Association purchased, in 1946, the old residence in which it is now housed. Since that purchase was made, District of Columbia zoning regulations have been changed so that we now need special permission to erect an office building on our property. In October 1952, an appeal to the Board of Zoning Adjustment for permission to erect an eight-story building was denied on technical grounds. Since then, the Building Committee, under John Dunning's chairmanship, has made a thorough-going examination of several alternative locations and considered various sizes and kinds of buildings. They recommended that the Association again appeal to the Board of Zoning Adjustment for permission to erect a four-story building which will be large enough to handle the Association's needs for the next 20 or more years. The Board approved, and a second appeal to the Board of Zoning Adjustment is under way.

Two matters of international cooperation were considered. In 1938 the AAAS and the British Association for the Advancement of Science agreed to exchange lecturers at their annual meetings. In 1939 Isaiah Bowman went to England as the guest of the British Association. But he never gave his lecture; the meeting was abandoned when Germany walked into Poland and set off World War II. After the war's ending allowed the resumption of meetings, C. B. Fawcett came to the U.S. as a guest of the AAAS and lectured at the 1946 Boston meeting. But the agreement cost too much, and in recent years exchange lectures have been given only when travel for other reasons made it possible to invite a speaker without expense to the host association. A. V. Hill's lecture at the 1953 meeting was the most recent example. Neither association has funds with which to pay all of the expenses of an invited lecturer; but holding such lectures is desirable, and the Board decided to try to continue the practice by offering a supplementary

honorarium to an invited speaker who expected to be in the U.S. for other purposes.

For some time there have been sporadic discussions of the possibility of establishing an international federation of associations for the advancement of science. The proposed federation would work closely with Unesco, and would probably pay more attention to problems of scientific education, international exchange of scientists and scientific information, and wider dissemination of knowledge of science than it would to questions of research and research support. Discussions with officers of some of the other associations and with Unesco officials have not yet led to definite decisions, either as to the advantages or the obligations of the proposed federation. The Board decided that further talks would be desirable before definite commitments were made.

For several years the Association has awarded the annual Westinghouse prizes of \$1000 each for excellence of scientific writing in newspapers and magazines. Last year the Westinghouse Educational Foundation decided that the original purpose of the awards had been fairly well fulfilled and that 1953 was the last year in which they were willing to support the program. The desirability of stimulating good science writing continues, however, and the Board discussed various other ways of accomplishing the same end. One idea that appeared attractive, and that the staff was asked to study in detail, was for the AAAS to offer a series of prizes for excellence in science writing by undergraduate and graduate students.

Arrangements for the 1955 meeting were discussed in some detail because of the special problems raised when an association that observes no race or color distinctions in its membership and activities meets in a city in which segregation is a long-established custom. This problem had been considered by the Board before the initial decision to meet in Atlanta was reached. It was again discussed last December in both Board and Council meetings. As a result, Dr. Taylor was asked to go again to Atlanta to investigate in detail the kind of arrangements which could be made and the extent of difficulties which should be anticipated. After discussing these matters with a number of people in Atlanta, Dr. Taylor recommended that the Association proceed with plans to meet there in 1955. Facilities for meetings at Atlanta University and elsewhere are satisfactory; both Negro and white advisors urged us to come to Atlanta. After this review of the problem the Board again decided that holding a meeting in Atlanta would probably accomplish more toward breaking down discriminatory prejudices than would be achieved by moving the meeting to another city.

Probably the item of uppermost importance on the Association's calendar is the question of what kind of activities and programs should be given most emphasis and what kind of association the AAAS should

be. The Arden House meeting in 1951 charted a general course for the Association, and changes in the direction of the Arden House recommendations have been made, but not rapidly enough to satisfy many of the members. One of the puzzles has been the problem of choosing the machinery which will work most effectively in determining what changes should be made, how rapidly, and with what priority. In March the Board unanimously passed the following motion and ordered it to be printed.

Moved that the Board request the Administrative Secretary, with such staff and other assistance as he considers appropriate, to study the assignment placed upon the Board of Directors by the findings of the Arden House Conference, and present to the Board suggestions for necessary or desirable changes in *a*) meetings; *b*) publications; *c*) facilities and methods for services by AAAS to members and constituent societies, including the integrating influence of the Association among the sciences; *d*) facilities and methods of the AAAS for improving the general public understanding of science.

Moved, further, that the Administrative Secretary in the light of suggestions on the four points listed above determine whether other steps are desirable such as appointment of special committees or the undertaking of other activities by the Board of Directors, in order that the greatest possible benefit may be derived by the Association from the Arden House study.

That action certainly places primary responsibility in one spot. There will be more to report later, after I have had time to digest the recommendations of as many members as I can get to talk about the kind of AAAS meetings, publications, and activities they believe would be most effective and useful.

DAEL WOLFE
Administrative Secretary

Transportation to the AAAS Meeting in Berkeley, California, December 26-31, 1954—and Call for Papers

Raymond L. Taylor

Associate Administrative Secretary

The decision to hold the 121st meeting of the Association this December in Berkeley, California, was not made without careful preliminary study, the hearty approval of the AAAS Pacific Division and its constituent scientific societies, and the generous offer of the University of California to make use of its facilities. It is now assured that this first national winter meeting of the AAAS west of the Rockies will have well-appointed session rooms, inexpensive housing in dormitories, hotels, and motels, and ample eating facilities on and off campus—all in one convenient area, across the Bay Bridge from San Francisco.

Since one out of each nine members of the Association resides on the Pacific Coast, the logic of meeting there, when circumstances permit, is cogent. For years West Coast scientists have attended scientific

meetings in other parts of the United States and have pointed out, "It really is no farther from New York to San Francisco than it is from San Francisco to New York." With the present schedules of air transport and coach fares it is not impractical or unduly expensive for AAAS members on one coast to travel to the other coast; they can still be home on Christmas day, on New Year's, or both.

Next month's preliminary announcement will outline the programs of the 18 sections and many participating organizations, including the Third Berkeley Symposium on Mathematical Statistics and Probability, the statistical societies, the American Physical Society, American Society of Limnology and Oceanography, Society of Systematic Zoology—and some 60 others.

One purpose of this notice is to call attention to the page in the advertising section of this issue which outlines the transportation possibilities and includes a coupon to indicate interest in securing the substantial savings possible by the AAAS chartering sections of regular flights—or in the pleasure of traveling with colleagues in the same railroad car. Another object:

CALL FOR PAPERS BY AAAS SECTIONS

The following sections of the Association will have sessions for contributed papers. The secretaries or program chairmen to whom titles and brief abstracts should be sent, *not later than September 30, 1954*, follow:

- C—Chemistry.** Dr. Ed. F. Degering, 12 Grove St., Natick, Mass.
- E—Geology and Geography.** Dr. Jack B. Graham, Room 516, 551 Fifth Ave., New York 17.
- F—Zoological Sciences.** (If outside the scope of Society of Systematic Zoology and Western Society of Naturalists) Dr. Joseph H. Bodine, State University of Iowa, Iowa City.
- G—Botanical Sciences.** (If outside the scope of American Society of Plant Physiologists' Western Section, American Phytopathological Society's Pacific Division, and Mycological Society of America) Dr. Barry Commoner, Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.
- H—Anthropology.** Dr. Gabriel Lasker, Wayne University College of Medicine, 1401 Rivard St., Detroit 7, Mich.
- I—Psychology.** Dr. William D. Neff, Department of Psychology, University of Chicago, Chicago 37, Ill.
- L—History and Philosophy of Science.** Dr. Raymond J. Seeger, 4507 Wetherill Road, Washington 16, D.C.
- Nd—Dentistry.** Dr. Russell W. Bunting, School of Dentistry, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
- Np—Pharmacy.** Dr. Glenn L. Jenkins, Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind.
- O—Agriculture.** Dr. F. D. Keim, College of Agriculture, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.
- Q—Education.** Dr. D. A. Worcester, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.
- Animal Venom Conference—AAAS Sections F and N—** Medical Sciences are cosponsoring a three-day Symposium on Animal Venoms—all phases of the venoms of poisonous reptiles, arthropods, fishes, and other animals. Titles and abstracts of papers, which can be read *in absentia* if necessary, should be submitted to Dr. Nandor Porges, 1301 E. Barringer St., Philadelphia 19, Pa.