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## Paying for the AAAS Headquarters Building

CONSTRUCTION of the Association's new headquarters building, which was pictured in the 27 August issue of *Science*, will mark the successful completion of a building plan begun 10 years ago. For 25 years the Smithsonian Institution had generously housed the Association's office. But by 1945 both host and guest were getting crowded, and the AAAS had to move. Looking forward to continued growth, the Association decided to establish a building fund and to plan for a permanent headquarters. The generous response of members and friends made it possible to purchase an entire, but small, block on Massachusetts Avenue just east of Scott Circle in Washington, D.C. It is desirably located within a few blocks of the American Chemical Society, the American Council of Learned Societies, the National Education Association, and several other national scientific and scholarly associations.

The growth that was predicted 10 years ago has gone on. There are twice as many members as there were 10 years ago; the journals reach almost twice as many readers; activities have expanded and further expansion is planned. The new building will provide all the space needed now and several thousand additional square feet, which for some years can be leased to affiliated associations. If the AAAS ever outgrows the entire building, the building itself can be enlarged, for the foundations and columns will be strong enough to support two additional stories. The Association is not overbuilding for its foreseeable needs but is planning with sufficient flexibility to be able to provide adequate space for several decades into the future.

The new building, rental of temporary quarters for a year or so, and necessary additional furnishings will

bring the total cost to a figure that the board of directors hopes to keep under \$800,000. This amount is considerably smaller than was contemplated 2 or 3 years ago when a much larger building was being considered.

The smaller cost will simplify the problem of financing. In addition to endowment funds with which the Association makes research grants through state academies of science, supports prizes for meritorious work in science, helps pay the expenses of the Gordon Research Conferences, and uses for other special purposes, the Association has reserves sufficient to pay about two-thirds of the building expense. This leaves approximately \$250,000 to be raised in other ways. The board of directors has decided to seek this money from the Association's members and friends.

About the first of December we will write to each member describing the building program, explaining the need for approximately a quarter of a million dollars beyond what we already have available, and inviting contributions to the building fund. A similar invitation will be sent to some of the Association's supporters in the business world.

Members who do not wish to contribute will not be pressed. Those who wish to contribute can do so in amounts they choose themselves and at times that best fit their convenience. Since contributions can be deducted in computing the donor's taxable net income, some may prefer to make a contribution in 1954, while others prefer to wait until 1955. Donors can be assured that their gifts will be used entirely to help pay for the new headquarters toward which the Association has been planning and saving for the past 10 years.

DAEL WOLFLE

*Administrative Secretary*

SCIENCE, founded in 1880, is published each Friday by the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Business Press, Lancaster, Pa. SCIENCE is indexed in the *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature*.

All correspondence should be addressed to SCIENCE, 1515 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington 5, D. C. Manuscripts should be typed with double spacing and submitted in duplicate. The AAAS assumes no responsibility for the safety of manuscripts or for the opinions expressed by contributors.

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

The AAAS also publishes THE SCIENTIFIC MONTHLY.