

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

Board of Directors

WALLACE R. BRODE, *President*
PAUL E. KLOPSTEG, *President Elect*
LAURENCE H. SNYDER, *Retiring President*
PAUL M. GROSS
GEORGE R. HARRISON
CHAUNCEY D. LEAKE
MARGARET MEAD
THOMAS PARK
MINA REES
WILLIAM W. RUBEY
ALAN T. WATERMAN
PAUL A. SCHERER, *Treasurer*
DAEL WOLFLE, *Executive Officer*

DAEL WOLFLE, *Executive Officer*
GRAHAM DUSHANE, *Editor*
JOSEPH TURNER, *Assistant Editor*
ROBERT V. ORMES, *Assistant Editor*

Editorial Board

WALLACE R. BRODE EDWIN M. LERNER
BENTLEY GLASS WILLIAM L. STRAUS, JR.
EDWARD L. TATUM

Editorial Staff

SARAH S. DEES, LUCILLE GUINARD, NANCY S.
HAMILTON, OLIVER W. HEATWOLE, NANCY L.
JACKSON, YUKIE KOZAI, ELLEN E. MURPHY,
BETHSABE PEDERSEN, MADELINE SCHNEIDER, JAC-
QUELYN VOLLMER, MARIA A. WOLSAK
EARL J. SCHERAGO, *Advertising Representative*

SCIENCE, which is now combined with THE SCIENTIFIC MONTHLY, is published each Friday by the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Business Press, Lancaster, Pa. The joint journal is published in the SCIENCE format. Entered at the Lancaster, Pa., Post Office as second class matter under the Act of 3 March 1879. SCIENCE is indexed in the *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature*.

Editorial and personnel-placement 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. For detailed suggestions on the preparation of manuscripts, book reviews, and illustrations, see *Science* 125, 16 (4 Jan. 1957).

Display-advertising correspondence should be addressed to SCIENCE, Room 740, 11 West 42 St., New York 36, N.Y.

Change of address notification should be sent to 1515 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington 5, D.C., 4 weeks in advance. If possible, furnish an address stencil label from a recent issue. Be sure to give both old and new addresses, including zone numbers, if any.

Annual subscription: \$8.50; foreign postage, \$1.50; Canadian postage, 75¢. Single copies, 35¢. Cable address: Advancesci, Washington.



Members x 2

Professors sometimes remark that the university would be an ideal place if it were not for the students. But no one ever makes such quips about an association. They may complain about the officers, or the policies, the publications, or the meetings; they may dislike some of their fellow members; but everyone agrees that an association is the members who comprise it. Within rough limits, the rate of growth of membership is a function of the usefulness of the association, and, again within rough limits, an increase in membership allows the association to be of greater service to its membership, for the cost of operation increases less rapidly than does the number of members.

AAAS membership has shown marked growth since its founding 110 years ago, and had a big spurt in the years surrounding the centennial celebration in 1948. A well organized membership drive increased the total from 29,000 in 1946 to 45,000 in 1949. Then came a slack period; from 1950 through 1954 the annual increases were small, and totaled only 4000 in the five-year period. Since 1954, however, there has been an upturn, with a gain of 7000 in the past three years.

The Board of Directors has decided that a substantial further increase is in the interest of all members and that this year, when the Association completes its 110th year, is a good time to make a special effort to increase the membership. Accordingly, each member was recently mailed a letter requesting him to invite one or more of his nonmember colleagues to join the Association. The every-member-get-another-member idea is more than a membership-drive gimmick; scientists who are already members are the best judges of who among their colleagues would find AAAS membership most profitable, and experience shows that their nominees are likely to join.

The members of any association must decide what the admission requirements will be. Some societies set quite specific requirements in terms of education or experience; others welcome anyone who is sincerely interested in the association's objectives and activities. The AAAS followed the British Association in adopting the latter policy. Thus anyone who is sincerely interested in the advancement of science and who wishes to receive *Science* is eligible for membership.

There are, of course, other reasons than the receipt of *Science* for joining the AAAS, yet that is the most frequent and tangible advantage of membership. It is an advantage that is also enjoyed by a considerable number of nonmembers, for sample surveys of readers have consistently shown that the number of readers is about twice as large as the number of subscribers. These nonmember readers are a good potential source of additional members, for their active interest in one aspect of the Association's program has already been demonstrated.

The letter that the Board of Directors sent to all members not only invited each to nominate a new member but also urged him to encourage his nominee to accept the invitation to join. Early returns indicate a large response, but there are still many members to be heard from. This editorial is a reminder that the invitation was seriously meant; we hope that the members will nominate a very substantial number of new members. This editorial is also an invitation to readers who are not members. An application form is printed on page 1450. Nonmembers who are interested in the objectives and activities of the AAAS are invited to use it.—D.W.