

## Chauncey D. Leake, President-Elect

In this Age of Science, there is a dearth of scientific leaders who can present and interpret the views of scientists in the broader arenas of life. The American Association for the Advancement of Science is the organization in our nation that stands for science as a whole. Chauncey D. Leake, whom we have chosen to be our president-elect, is a man who is superbly equipped to lead our multifaceted interests as an integrated whole.

Chauncey Leake is a pharmacologist, chemist, physiologist, administrator, writer, editor, historian, philosopher, and orator. Above all, he is a humanist and a catalyst with a fine intuition for what is truly important and a tolerant disregard for dull trivia. For him, science is a product of the human mind, inseparable from considerations of human ethics, human politics, and human aspirations, and dependent upon untrammelled communication of ideas.

To his forthcoming role of president of the Association, he brings a wide, rich experience in councils of universities, public affairs, and national administrative bodies. In 1940 and again in 1954 he served as vice president of the Association and chairman of the section on the history of medicine and philosophy of science. He represented the Association at the first World Conference on Medical Education, held in London in 1953. He has been on the Board of Directors since 1955.

Leake has been a member of many consultative committees for the U.S. Public Health Service, the Air Force, the National Research Council, and the National Library of Medicine. Among the numerous memberships in scientific societies are terms of office as president of the History of Science Society in 1937 and an election from the floor as president of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics in 1958. In group deliberations, his attitudes are those of patient attention, tolerant understanding, and a liberal inclination toward action when the goals are worth while, even when the

path to such goals is not entirely clear.

Chauncey D. Leake was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey, on 5 September 1896, son of Frank Walker Leake and Helen Luttgen Leake. He graduated from Princeton University in 1917, majoring in philosophy, chemistry, and biology. After service in the Army, in a psychological testing unit and with a Chemical Warfare Service detail, he attended the University of Wisconsin and obtained a Ph.D. in physiology and pharmacology in 1923. He remained at Wisconsin for 5 years as assistant and associate professor of pharmacology.

In 1928 Leake was called to reorganize the pharmacology department at the University of California Medical School in San Francisco, as professor of pharmacology. Fourteen years later, in 1942, he accepted the post of vice president of the University of Texas in charge of the Medical Branch in Galveston, where he remained for 12 years. Since 1955 he has been professor of pharmacology, lecturer on history and philosophy of medicine, and assistant dean, of the Ohio State University College of Medicine in Columbus, Ohio.

Leake's interest in the history and

philosophy of science has been continually productive since his earliest faculty days in Wisconsin. This interest is not one of an introverted scholar but of an explorer and teacher who wants to distill and to share for current use the lessons of the past. He has organized and taught pioneering courses in these subjects and has always combined appointments in the history of medicine with his professorships of pharmacology.

Chauncey Leake's contributions to pharmacology have included studies on the metabolic action of anesthetics and narcotics, chemotherapy of amebiasis and leprosy, and the analysis of the conceptual basis of pharmacology as a scientific discipline. I remember with pleasure, and with increasing respect, his lectures and demonstrations on the now self-evident fact that anesthesiology is a physiological science and not, as considered 25 years ago, the duty of a faithful nurse-assistant of the surgeon. He developed divinyl ether as a useful inhalation anesthetic agent after a prediction of its properties before it existed. With his students at California, he found that carbarsone and Vioform are effective amebicides and conducted research programs in the chemotherapy of leprosy. He was a strong proponent of systematic explorations in chemotherapy during the presulfanilamide nadir of therapy, using the conceptual models of correlation between chemical structure and biologic action which he termed *biochemorphy*. In physiology, he investigated the effects of pH on blood vessels, of carbon dioxide on the brain, and the regulation of red blood cell production. His students particularly appreciated his dynamic leadership during planning conferences on the balcony over the laboratory in the old medical school building in San Francisco. Broad generalizations were pruned down to concrete research approaches and undertaken as far as the tiny budgets of that day would allow. He was a constant stimulator, mentor, and enthusiast over the successes of his boys.

At California, and later at Galveston and Columbus, his interests extended and continue to extend well beyond the medical school. They encompass city planning, undergraduate courses in ethics, psychiatric clinics, and international symposia. His promotion of art, particularly during the dark, conventionally forgotten days of the great depression, was a topic for many an act in the senior medical class plays, and the art he supported eventually covered most of the available wall space on the



Chauncey D. Leake

campus. He began a famed seminar program in pharmacology at Pharmaglen, a redwood forest retreat in the Santa Cruz mountains, and his students and associates became organized into the James Blake Society, named in honor of a pioneer pharmacologist of California.

The Texas phase of Leake's career was a further broadening of his interests and stimulations. I preceded him as a lowly resident in Galveston, and recall my amazement at the growth of the medical school upon my return visit there 10 years later. The new bricks and concrete were secondary to the reorganized curriculum and a revitalized faculty, adventuresome paramedical courses, and a healthy basic research program. His influence extended well beyond Galveston, for he was helpful in the development of the M. D. Anderson Hospital and the Baylor Medical School in Houston, and of the Southwestern Medical School in Dallas.

Chauncey Leake is a prolific writer and is devoted to establishing and developing communication outlets for science. In 1938 he founded the University of California Publications in Pharmacology, and in 1943, the Texas Reports on Biology and Medicine. He is the editor of the American Lecture Series in Pharmacology, and a member of several editorial boards. His own output includes eight books and over 400 articles, scientific reports, editorials, book reviews, and essays. Of especial importance was his 1927 tercentenary translation, with annotations, of William Harvey's *De Motu Cordis*, which is now a standard and has gone through four editions. More recently he has published *Letheon: The Cadenced Story of Anesthesia* (1947); *Can We Agree?*, a discussion on science and ethics with Patrick Romanell (1950); *Some Founders of Physiology* (1956); and *The Amphetamines: Their Actions and Uses* (1958). Since 1940 he has issued a

mimeographed monthly *Calling Attention to*, a brief, informal yet informative comment on new books and articles that goes to over 1600 friends all over the world. This is often accompanied by a welcome, more personal report on the doings of Chauncey and his friends.

Chauncey Leake married Elizabeth Wilson of Iowa in 1921, and there are two sons, Chauncey, who is in investment banking, and Wilson, who is an anesthesiologist. Mrs. Leake graciously encourages her husband's professional interests and shares in his relaxations in art, poetry, music, and drama.

A profitable period of continued progress will be recorded by the Association during the dynamic leadership of Chauncey Leake, and we shall have occasion to compliment ourselves on the wisdom of our choice.

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## AAAS Council Meeting, 1958

Dael Wolfe

The AAAS Council held two sessions during the 1958 annual meeting in Washington, D.C., both at the Sheraton-Park Hotel. The first session convened at 4 P.M. on 27 December and adjourned at 5:10 P.M. The second convened at 9:10 A.M. on 30 December and adjourned at 11:30 A.M. President Wallace R. Brode presided. Attendance at the first session was 126, and at the second, 125.

### Elections and Officers

The President announced the election of Chauncey D. Leake as president-elect, and the election of H. Bentley Glass and the reelection of Margaret Mead as members of the Board of Directors to serve for four-year terms, 1959 through 1962. To fill out the unexpired year of the term left vacant by the resignation of Paul M. Gross, the Board elected Don K. Price as a new Board member.

A list of the committeemen-at-large elected by the sections was read. The

Council elected the vice presidents and chairmen of sections for 1959 whose names and sections are listed on pages 475-478. The Executive Officer reported that the Board had reelected Donald P. Ray as Secretary of Section K, reelected John E. Christian as Secretary of Section Np, and elected Reidar F. Sognnaes as Secretary of Section Nd, all for four-year terms, 1959 through 1962.

The Council elected H. Trendley Dean and Harold D. Lasswell to serve for two-year terms on the Committee on Nominations.

### Affiliates

Upon recommendation by the Committee on Affiliation and with the concurrence of the Board of Directors, the Council elected the following organizations as affiliates of the Association: American College of Cardiology, American College of Radiology, American Rocket Society, Central Association of

Science and Mathematics Teachers, Society of Biological Psychiatry, Arizona Academy of Science, and Wildlife Management Institute. With these elections, the number of organizations affiliated with the AAAS is now 286.

### Social Aspects of Science

At the 1955 meeting the Council established an Interim Committee on the Social Aspects of Science. A year later, by Council action, this committee was enlarged and made directly responsible to the Board of Directors. During the years 1957 and 1958 the committee, among other activities, devoted a considerable amount of time to discussions of how such a committee might most effectively serve science and society. A committee report on this question was the subject of extended discussion by the Board of Directors and provided a substantial portion of the background for recommendations presented in the following section for some reorganization of the Association's committee structure. In anticipation of the discussion of those recommendations, Laurence H. Snyder, in the annual report of the Chairman of the Board of Directors to Council, discussed the major objectives of the Association in relation to the proposed committee structure. Chauncey D. Leake, chairman of the Committee on the Social Aspects of Science, described the subcommittees that had been established by the committee, the symposia that had been held at the 1957 and 1958