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Among the Missing

Biographical directories, like telephone directories and encyclopedias, rapidly become obsolete. Consequently, all who want biographical information about scientists—scientists themselves, administrators in government, industry, universities, and research institutions, editors of scientific journals, and science writers for the press, among others—will welcome the publication this fall of the first volume of the tenth edition of *American Men of Science*, the largest biographical directory in the world.

Inasmuch as the criteria for inclusion (achievement equivalent to the attainment of a doctorate, research activity of high quality, or the holding of a responsible position requiring scientific training and experience equivalent to the foregoing) have not been changed since preparation of the first edition, in 1906, the size of successive editions roughly reflects the increasing number of scientists in our population. As one looks at the volumes assembled on the library shelf, he is struck by the increase in bulk and notices that the eighth edition approaches the limit in size for a single book; that this physical limitation was recognized by the editor and his advisers is apparent, for the ninth edition appeared in three volumes (the forthcoming tenth edition will require five). The impression thus gained visually is borne out by the numbers of biographies included, which, in round numbers, are as follows (years of publication in parentheses): 4000 (1906); 5500 (1910); 9500 (1921); 13,500 (1927); 22,000 (1933); 28,000 (1938); 34,000 (1944); 50,000 (1949); 95,000 (1956); and 120,000 (estimated for 1959–62). As can be seen from the figures, the number of scientists listed increased about 30-fold, a much more rapid increase than for the U.S. population as a whole, which underwent a twofold increase during the same time.

But no biographical directory is ever all-inclusive. Despite the cooperation of virtually all scientific societies and all universities granting higher degrees, there are some people who cannot be located or who have neglected to supply biographical data. The first of the four volumes devoted to the physical and biological sciences, which will carry the biographies of scientists whose last names have initial letters from *A* to *E*, will soon be ready to go to press. Some 1800 people whose names should be included are known to be among the missing. Space does not permit us to list them all: they range from Torfine Leonard Aamodt (entomology, University of Minnesota, St. Paul) to Eugene Henderson Eyster (physical chemistry, Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, Los Alamos, N.M.).

Any eligible person whose last name begins with *A*, *B*, *C*, *D*, or *E* and who is uncertain about whether he has sent the editor a biographical sketch, should write promptly to Jacques Cattell, Editor, *American Men of Science*, Arizona State University, 820 College Ave., Tempe, Ariz. Those who do so will be entitled to feel, as J. McKeen Cattell, editor of the first edition, expressed it in his preface to that edition, "in the fortunate position of knowing that whatever we do to promote our own interests is at the same time a service to the community and the world."—G.DuS.