

Meetings

British Association for the Advancement of Science

The British Association was founded in 1831 "to convince an indifferent public and government that science is important and worth backing." Currently its main task is "the promotion of a better understanding of the significance for industry of scientific research and its impact, through its applications, of science as a whole." The annual meeting of the British Association is arranged accordingly in such a way as to present summary reviews and discussions of recent scientific advances for the benefit of a general public audience, with special sessions for young people. The annual meetings are held early in the fall, at cities around Great Britain, so as to bring scientists directly to local communities. The Cardiff meeting was a huge success in these respects.

Cardiff is a bustling city of nearly 300,000 and is now the capital of the principality of Wales. It has changed from a major coal exporting port to a general industrial center with many large parks and handsome public buildings. The great castle goes back to Roman times, but is chiefly a Norman structure, and the city has developed around it. Nearby is a large park containing the major public buildings, including the fine Welsh National Museum, the great City Hall, and the main university buildings.

Addresses

Some 4000 attended the 1960 meeting, under the presidency of Sir George Thomson, whose presidential address dealt with "Two aspects of science" (see page 996). This address was given at a formal occasion with full academic regalia. Sir George discussed the relations of pure and applied science. Honorary degrees were conferred by the University of Wales on Sir George Thomson, Sir James Gray (immediate past president), Dame Cathleen Lonsdale of the University of London, and on Principal W. Arthur Lewis of the University College of the West Indies.

Special evening discourses were given on "The structure of the universe" by Professor H. Bondi of the University of London, and on "Microbiological methods in the development of drugs" by Dr. E. V. Chain, professor of biochemistry of the Istituto Superiore di Sanita, Rome.

Outstanding were the addresses by presidents of sections: Dr. James Taylor on "Chemistry in industry"; G. S. Carter, "Tropical climates and biology"; Sir Alfred Pugsley, "Statics and the engineer"; Professor E. E. Evans, "The

Peasant and the past"; Professor T. M. Harris, "The origin of angiosperms"; Dr. William Davies, "Pastoral systems in relation to world food supplies"; T. R. Peace, "The dangerous concept of the natural forest"; A. B. Oldfield-Davies, "Science broadcasting"; Dr. R. Woolley, "Stellar motions"; Professor E. B. Bowen, "Welsh emigration overseas"; Professor R. S. Sayers, "Monetary policy in Great Britain"; Professor William Burns, "The physiology of hearing"; Professor H. C. Dent, "Sixty years of progress in English education"; Professor R. C. Oldfield, "Experiment in psychology—a centenary"; G. F. Mitchell, "Pleistocene history of the Irish Sea"; and Professor D. V. Glass, "Population growth, fertility, and problems of policy."

Individual reports were arranged under the headings of the physical sciences; the biological sciences; forestry and agriculture; geography, anthropology and archeology; and economics, education, psychology and sociology.

Major interest at the meeting centered in the special symposium on world food and population. There were seven speakers in the symposium, and the general consensus was that technological improvements in the use of arable land can maintain adequate food supplies if population growth can be reasonably controlled.

Dr. Michael P. Reece of the Electrical Research Association gave the Kelvin lecture on "Physical principles of switches and circuit breakers." The Lister lecture was given by W. M. Williams of the University College of North Staffordshire on the "Social study of family farming." Interesting was the Darwin lecture by Martin J. Wells of Cambridge University on "What the octopus makes of it: Our world from another point of view."

For the young people there were special panel discussions on questions submitted by students, and there was an excellent exhibit on science teaching in schools. The York lecture for young people was given by Sir James Gray on "The flight of birds." Professor A. Charlesby talked on "Atomic radiation and materials." B. B. Lloyd discussed "Ends and means in human respiration," and Professor C. E. H. Bawn lectured on "Plastics and fibers." Scientific films were also shown, and special exhibits were arranged in the National Museum of Wales. Sectional excursions were provided for geologists and other groups.

Outstanding at the meetings of the British Association for the Advancement of Science are the social functions. The city of Cardiff and the University College were lavish in their entertainment. There were receptions, luncheons, and dinners, arranged with

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GRASSLANDS

Editor: Howard B. Sprague 1959

6" x 9", 424 pp., 37 illus., index, cloth. Price \$9.00, AAAS members' cash orders \$8.00. AAAS Symposium Volume No. 53.

This volume is intended as a review of knowledge on many aspects of grasslands resources. The 44 authors were selected by their own professional colleagues as being particularly competent to present the respective subjects. Thirty-seven papers are arranged under these chapter headings:

1. Sciences in Support of Grassland Research
2. Forage Production in Temperate Humid Regions
3. Engineering Aspects of Grassland Agriculture
4. Forage Utilization and Related Animal Nutrition Problems
5. Evaluation of the Nutritive Significance of Forages
6. Grassland Climatology
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delightful formality and with a minimum of speaking. The Lord Mayor (Mrs. Dorothy Lewis) and the corporation of Cardiff gave a civic luncheon, as well as a general reception.

Sir Wilfred Le Gros Clark, professor of anatomy at Oxford University, succeeds Sir George Thomson, professor of physical chemistry at Cambridge University, as president of the British Association. Sir Wilfred is widely known for his studies on nerve regeneration and on paleontology. In thanking Sir George Thomson for his presidential address on the undersanding and control of nature, Sir James Gray, past president, referred to the unique situation of son following father in the presidency of the British Association. Sir George's father was the famed J. J. Thomson, whose concept of electrons opened the atomic age. Both father and son were Nobel laureates.

With full and detailed press coverage, the Cardiff meeting of the British Association was especially successful with respect to its prime function of promoting a better understanding of the significance of scientific research. The program was well arranged. The various papers and symposia will be published in *The Advancement of Science*, the well-designed periodical maintained by the BAAS.

The AAAS was represented officially by Dr. Alfred S. Romer of the Board of Directors and by the President. Dr. Carl F. Kayan of the Council was a guest of the Engineering Section. Several other Americans attended the meetings. All were impressed by the pleasant character of the occasion, the delightful hospitality, and the high quality of the scientific discussion.

CHAUNCEY D. LEAKE

President, AAAS

Forthcoming Events

November

2-4. Plasma Physics, 2nd annual, Gatlinburg, Tenn. (A. H. Snell, Oak Ridge Natl. Lab., Oak Ridge, Tenn.)

2-4. Society for Experimental Stress Analysis, Berkeley, Calif. (W. W. Murray, Massachusetts Inst. of Technology, Cambridge)

2-5. American Soc. of Parasitologists, Los Angeles, Calif. (F. J. Kruidenier, Zoology Dept., Univ. of Illinois, Urbana)

2-5. American Soc. of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Los Angeles, Calif. (R. B. Hill, 3573 St. Gaudens Rd., Miami 33, Fla.)

2-5. American Speech and Hearing Assoc., Los Angeles, Calif. (K. O. Johnson, 1001 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington 6)

3-4. Electrostatic Propulsion, conf., Monterey, Calif. (J. M. Sellen, Thompson Ramo-Wooldridge, Inc., 8433 Fallbrook Ave., Canoga Park, Calif.)

3-4. Muscle as a Tissue, conf., Philadel-

phia, Pa. (Division of Research, Lankenau Hospital, Philadelphia 31)

4-5. West-Central States Biochemical Conf., Lincoln, Neb. (J. H. Pazur, Dept. of Biochemistry and Nutrition, Univ. of Nebraska, Lincoln)

4-6. Assoc. of Clinical Scientists, Washington, D.C. (R. P. MacFate, 54 W. Hubbard St., Chicago 10, Ill.)

5. Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, Philadelphia, Pa. (G. Kaskey, Remington Rand Univac, 1900 W. Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia)

7-10. Society of Exploration Geophysicists, 30th annual intern., Galveston, Tex. (C. C. Campbell, Box 1536, Tulsa, Okla.)

8-10. Forensic Sciences, 2nd symp., Washington, D.C. (Director, Armed Forces Inst. of Pathology, Washington 25)

9-10. Use of Secondary Surfaces for Heat Transfer with Clean Gases, symp., London, England. (Secretary, Institution of Mechanical Engineers, 1 Birdcage Walk, London, S.W.1)

9-11. Clinical Chemistry Methods, symp., Cleveland, Ohio. (A. Hainline, Cleveland Clinic, 2020 E. 93 St., Cleveland 6)

10-12. Geological Soc. of America, 73rd conv., Denver, Colo. (H. R. Aldrich, GSA, 419 W. 117 St., New York 27)

10-12. National Assoc. of Geology Teachers, Denver, Colo. (F. Foote, Dept. of Geology, Williams College, Williamstown, Mass.)

10-13. Pacific Coast Fertility Soc., Las Vegas, Nev. (A. C. Wineberg, 3120 Webster St., Oakland, Calif.)

11-12. Paleontological Soc., Denver, Colo. (H. B. Whittington, Harvard Univ., Cambridge 38, Mass.)

13-16. Society of American Foresters, 60th annual, Washington, D.C. (H. Clapper, SAF, 825 Mills Bldg., Washington 6)

14-17. Magnetism and Magnetic Materials, 6th annual conf., New York, N.Y. (L. R. Bickford, Jr., I.B.M. Research Center, Yorktown Heights, N.Y.)

14-18. American Soc. of Agronomy, Chicago, Ill. (L. G. Monthey, 2702 Monroe St., Madison 5, Wis.)

14-18. Nuclear Ship Propulsion, symp., Taormina, Sicily. (International Atomic Energy Agency, 11 Kärntner Ring, Vienna 1, Austria)

15-16. Engineering Application of Probability and Random Function Theory, symp., Lafayette, Ind. (J. L. Bogdanoff, School of Aeronautical and Engineering Sciences, Purdue Univ., Lafayette)

16-19. Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers, annual, New York, N.Y. (W. N. Landers, SNAME, 74 Trinity Pl., New York 6)

17-19. Extrapyramidal System and Neuroleptics, intern. symp., Montreal, Canada. (J.-M. Bordeleau, Dept. of Psychiatry, Univ. of Montreal, Montreal)

17-19. Surgery of Endocrine Organs, symp., New York, N.Y. (Office of the Associate Dean, New York Univ. Post-Graduate Medical School, 550 First Ave., New York 16)

17-20. American Anthropological Assoc., Minneapolis, Minn. (B. J. Meggers, 1530 P St., NW, Washington 5)

17-20. Southern Thoracic Surgical Assoc., Nassau, Bahamas. (H. H. Seiler, 517 Bayshore Blvd., Tampa 6, Fla.)

(See issue of 16 September for comprehensive list.)

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