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SCIENCE, now combined with THE SCIENTIFIC MONTHLY, is published each Friday by the American Association for the Advancement of Science at National Publishing Company, Washington, D.C. SCIENCE is indexed in the *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature*.

**Editorial 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. Opinions expressed by authors are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the AAAS or the institutions with which the authors are affiliated. For detailed suggestions on the preparation of manuscripts, see *Science* 125, 16 (4 Jan. 1957).

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**Change of address notification** should be sent to 1515 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington 5, D.C., 4 weeks in advance. Furnish an address label from a recent issue. Give both old and new addresses, including zone numbers.

**Annual subscriptions:** \$8.50; foreign postage, \$1.50; Canadian postage, 75¢. Single copies, 35¢. School year subscriptions: 9 months, \$7.00; 10 months, \$7.50. Cable address: Advancesci, Washington.

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## The Editorial Chair

An article elsewhere in this issue gives an account of some of the qualities and achievements of Philip H. Abelson, my distinguished successor as editor of *Science*. Dr. Abelson will find, as I have found, that *Science* has a great reservoir of good will not only in the scientific world but also among nonscientists and science writers for newspapers and magazines, both at home and abroad. This good will manifests itself in the readiness of scientists to take time from their regular duties to write for us and to give us their advice freely and promptly, and in the cooperative and mutually helpful relations we have with science writers and editors.

Dr. Abelson will also find that the executive officer of the Association, the editorial board, the board of directors, and the loyal and effective staff are at all times ready to cooperate in giving the support needed to continue the improvement of the magazine. What should be equally gratifying to him will be his discovery that neither the advertising staff nor any advertiser will attempt in any way to control editorial policy. Thanks to these favorable relations he will be able to publish articles about important scientific issues, even though they may be controversial, without any of the restrictions that shackle some editors.

But this is not all. *Science* is perhaps unique among journals published by societies or associations in its freedom from editorial pressures by the members and officers: they have no readier access to its pages than anyone else. The first editor appointed after the Association acquired ownership of the magazine, Willard L. Valentine, stated [*Science* 103, 2 (4 Jan. 1946)] a farsighted policy that is still in effect: "Wisely, the Executive Committee [of the Association] refused to bind the Editor's hands, so that *Science* is not required to publish all official addresses."

I congratulate Dr. Abelson upon his appointment and upon the freedom he will have to continue a strong tradition of editorial independence and integrity. As I move from the editor's swivel chair to a reader's easy chair, I am sure that I am expressing the thoughts of the other 80,000 subscribers when I wish Dr. Abelson a long and distinguished career as editor. His vigor and imagination give every promise that this wish will be fulfilled.—G. DuS.