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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 triplicate. 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).

Advertising correspondence should be addressed to SCIENCE, Room 1740, 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. 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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1895—

In 1895, shortly after he became editor of *Science*, James McKeen Cattell wrote to George F. Kunz, mineralogist and gem expert, describing the purposes and policies of *Science*. There has been so little change in the objectives of the journal that it seems of interest to publish Dr. Cattell's letter. Except for the first paragraph, it reads:

"A journal such as *Science* aims to aid materially in the advancement of science in America and at the present time. We have no one centre—such as London and Paris—where men of science are stimulated by personal contact and the interchange of ideas, and the great physical distances make social intercourse difficult or impossible. Then, at the present time, it is of especial importance for men of science working in one department to be informed of what is being accomplished in others. In order that science may advance as a whole, specialization by each requires co-operation by all.

"A weekly journal covering all the sciences is almost a necessity; but it can only be conducted efficiently—indeed can only exist at all—with the active and constant aid of those who are contributing to the advancement of science. The number is not so great but that each one may feel a personal responsibility.

"I think we should all agree as to what is needed. Special researches should as a rule be published in the special journals but the general results of such work—either before or after the detailed publication—should be reported in *Science*. Papers and addresses giving the progress and present condition of the several sciences and their branches are needed. Such addresses are often prepared for a special audience and their usefulness is greatly increased by publication in a journal such as *Science*. Authoritative reviews are needed, not perhaps minute criticism of detail, but such account and criticism as shall inform those, who are not specialists in the given department, what the book contributes to the sum of knowledge. Notes, particularly series of notes, covering work in a given branch of science are especially useful. Personal and other items are very important. Discussion, both of scientific problems and educational methods, scientific institutions and the like are particularly needed.

"In all these cases it is evident that a journal appearing frequently and reaching a large number of men of science is the proper place of publication.

"Hoping that you will be able, in these different directions, to contribute to the work of the journal."

Very truly yours,
/s/ J. MCK. CATTELL

Two previous editors had tried unsuccessfully to publish *Science*. Cattell succeeded, and from the beginning was able to state his editorial plans so appropriately that scarcely a word needs changing today.—D.W.