H. Bentley Glass, President-Elect

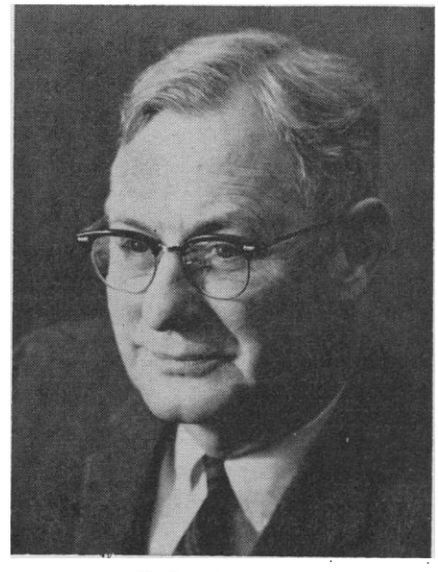
At first sight, Bentley Glass is likely to be taken for an ivory-tower scientist who has emerged to do some necessary chores and is hurrying to withdraw to the tower again. Yet he is not the ivory-tower kind at all. He is interested in just about everything; one of the journals he edits (the *Quarterly Review of Biology*) has a section entitled "De omnibus rebus et quibusdam aliis," which is a fit description of the field of interest of the editor. His energy, drive, and working capacity are prodigious; a man of thought and a man of action coexist in him without conflict.

H. Bentley Glass was born on 17 January 1906 at Laichowfu, Shantung, China, a son of a missionary. He attended Baylor University, Texas, where he received his B.A. degree in 1926 and his M.A. 2 years later. His first publication dealt with the physiology of a species of lizard. He then moved to the University of Texas at Austin, where great things were happening in the field of genetics under the leadership of H. J. Muller and J. T. Patterson. Glass made several studies on chromosomal aberrations induced in *Drosophila* by x-ray treatments, especially on aberrations connected with mosaicisms of the eye coloration (so-called "eversporting" displacements). He received his Ph.D. in 1932, and was awarded a National Research Council fellowship which enabled him to work at the University of Oslo, Norway, and at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institut in Germany.

His teaching career started at Timpson High School in Texas (1926–28); this was probably excellent preparation for his activities on behalf of the Biological Sciences Curriculum Study more than 30 years later. He taught at Stephens College, Columbia, Missouri (1934–38), and at Goucher College, Baltimore (1938–47). In 1947 he became associate professor, and in 1952 professor, of biology at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. In 1965 he left Johns Hopkins to become academic vice president and Distinguished Professor of Biology at the State University of New York, Stony Brook, Long Island.

In his choice of research problems Glass has shown a remarkable versatility. Using *Drosophila* as experimental material, he studied chromosomal aberrations, compared the susceptibility of the two sexes to the mutagenic action of x-rays, analyzed the factors governing the penetrance and expressivity of certain genotypes, worked on melanotic tumors, and worked on factors which influence longevity. In the 1940's he entered the field of human genetics and dealt with blood group polymorphisms, the inheritance of certain nonpathological traits and of disease syndromes, the susceptibility of human tissue culture cells to radiation damage, the rate of gene flow between White and Negro populations in the United States, and the population genetics of a religious isolate, the Dunkers. In this isolate he found probably the most convincing evidence of random genetic drift recorded in human materials. His interest in the history of science led him to study the forerunners of Darwin, especially the work of Maupertuis, whom he dubbed "the forgotten genius."

Together with W. D. McElroy he organized a series of McCollum-Pratt symposia and edited nine volumes, on the metabolism of copper, phosphorus, amino acids, and inorganic nitrogen; enzyme action; and the chemical basis of heredity and of development. In the case of these and some other symposium volumes, his was not merely an editorial job, since he often acted as a synthesizer of the materials presented by others. His ability to grasp the essentials of a series of papers presented at a symposium—papers whose contents he did not know in advance—is truly exceptional. Probably many readers besides myself found that Glass's synthesis at the end of a symposium volume usually gives a good enough idea of the whole to make reading of the summarized papers dispensable. Some authors may have secretly wished the synthesizer had been less effective!



H. Bentley Glass

His interest in education in general, and in science and biology education in particular, led Glass to write several books, and to become the editor or a co-editor of several journals and symposium volumes. In addition to the McCollum-Pratt volumes mentioned above, he edited two volumes of *Survey of Biological Progress* and a volume entitled *Forerunners of Darwin*; his books include *Genes and the Man, Science and Liberal Education*, and *Science and Ethical Values*.

He served as a member, as secretary, or as chairman of committees and boards too numerous to list. One of these assignments is, however, of such outstanding importance that it must be mentioned. This is the Biological Sciences Curriculum Study, of which Glass was chairman from 1959 to 1965, serving as a member of the executive committee thereafter. Together with numerous collaborators, some of them university professors but most of them teachers in high schools in various parts of the United States, the members of this Curriculum Study labored for several years to produce three textbooks of biology, known simply as the yellow, green, and blue versions (there is no red version, for reasons too obvious to be explained!). They were published by Harcourt, Brace & World, by Rand McNally, and by Houghton Mifflin, respectively, and opened a new era in biology teaching in the United States and, to some extent, the world over. By 1967, an estimated 2 million copies had been put in circulation. Nearly half of the high schools in the United States, some 15 percent of those in Canada, and a

smaller fraction of those elsewhere are using these textbooks. It is not too optimistic to hope that, from now on, an increasingly large number of young Americans will have at least a nodding acquaintance with biology as presented in one of the "versions." I should also mention that Glass was a participant in the so-called Pugwash conferences, and a member of the continuing committees of these conferences.

Glass has received numerous honors and kudos. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; a foreign member of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences; honorary member of the National Association of Biology Teachers; member of the board of directors of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (1959–66); vice president and chairman of AAAS Section F (Zoology) in 1956; member of the editorial board of AAAS (1959–66); and acting editor of *Science* and the *Scientific Monthly* in 1953. He has been president of the American Association of University Professors (1958–60), American Society of Naturalists (1965), American Institute of Biological Sciences (1954–56), American Society of Human Genetics (1967), and Phi Beta Kappa (1967–70). Washington College, Baylor University, Western Reserve University, Cornell College, and Western Maryland College have all conferred on him honorary doctorates.

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AAAS Council Meeting, 1967

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The AAAS Council held its 1967 annual meeting in the New York Hilton Hotel beginning at 9:00 a.m. on 30 December. President Don K. Price presided. There were 233 members present at the morning session and 178 at the afternoon session. The business meeting was preceded by a panel discussion of "Basic Science and Its Application," which had been arranged by the Committee on Council Affairs. Walter Orr Roberts presided. The four speakers were William O. Baker, Lewis M. Branscomb, Richard M. Goody, and Gordon J. F. MacDonald. Discussion involving the speakers and members of the Council followed the presentation of the four prepared papers.

Alfred S. Romer presented the report of the chairman of the Board of Directors. He referred to a number of items that had already been reported to Council or that appeared on the agenda, and announced that the Board of Directors and the officers of the British Association for the Advancement of Science were planning a small, joint meeting that both associations hoped would be helpful in defining their responsibilities and planning their activities for the next few years. He also reported that the Board of Directors had voted to add two floors to the present headquarters building and to purchase land near Washington, D.C., to which the headquarters could later be moved, if that seems desirable, or on which a building to house a portion of the Association office might be erected.

Romer then asked the president, Don K. Price, to review the action taken by the Board in response to a resolution adopted by Council at the 1966 annual meeting. The resolution expressed concern over the long-range consequences of the use of biological and chemical agents which modify the environment, asked that a committee to study such use be established, and offered the Association's cooperation to public agencies and government offices in determining the implications of programs and activities which modify the environment and affect the ecological balance on a large scale.

Price reviewed the appointment of an advisory committee under the chairmanship of René Dubos; the decision by the Board to consider separately (i) the use of herbicides and defoliants in Vietnam and elsewhere and (ii) the wider and more general problems of technological intrusions into the environment; the discussions he, the president-elect, and the executive officer had held with officers of the United States Government concerning the first of these two areas of work; and the decision by the Director of Defense Research and Engineering to contract with the Midwest Research Institute for a review of existing knowledge and reports concerning the effects of the use of herbicides and defoliants. The resulting report, Price stated, was being reviewed by a committee of the National Academy of Sciences. The report itself and the comments by the National Academy of Sciences committee were scheduled to come to AAAS in January.

With respect to area ii, Price said the Board had asked the Committee on Science in the Promotion of Human Welfare to serve as a continuing committee to be alert to actions, developments, or proposals that seemed likely to result in major changes in the environment, and, as appropriate, to recommend to the Board of Directors the appointment of special commissions to analyze the nature and implications of particular problems and developments. In response to this request, the Committee on Science in the Promotion of Human Welfare recommended that a special committee be established and that the committee consider questions of population change as well as questions of alteration of the environment, for the two problem areas interact so intimately that they should be studied together. Price said that the Board of Directors and the Committee on Council Affairs had considered these matters and were agreed that it would be desirable to reverse the earlier decision to separate AAAS responsibility with respect to areas i and ii, and that the Board of Directors had therefore voted to establish a continuing Committee on Environmental Alteration, to instruct