

decayed tree trunks as would the other materials.

In 1897 I was asked by the A. A. A. S. to go down with a committee of the Society to inspect Mr. Volk's work. This I did in company with Mr. H. C. Mercer, Professor Arthur Hollick, of Columbia University, and Professor William Libbey, of Princeton. Five days were spent upon the ground. Mr. Volk ventured (what is a very hazardous thing for a scientific man to do), to prophesy what we should find. He let us select our ground, which we did in several places, and had extensive excavations made under our own eyes. What Mr. Volk prophesied was that in the upper foot of disturbed soil we should find numerous artifacts of flint and jasper and some pottery, but that below that we should find nothing of that kind but would find occasionally worked pieces of argillite. This proved to be exactly the case. We found in the lower portion of our excavation sixteen chipped fragments of argillite, all covered with deep patina. We found also some broken pebbles which had been battered to indicate use by man. We also found five flakes of quartz which may have been used as implements but were of an entirely different type from those on the surface. All this accorded with the general facts as reported by Mr. Volk, and to us were perfectly convincing evidence of the accuracy of his observations, and confirmatory of the testimony of Dr. Abbott concerning the prevalence of argillite in the undisturbed glacial strata, establishing a sharp distinction between the occupation of palæolithic man and that of the aboriginal Indians.

The work of Dr. Abbott and Mr. Volk illustrates the importance of having local observers interested in discoveries to be made about their own doors. They were both business men who turned aside to make and record observations which could be made only by those who were on the ground; and their observations have been carefully recorded and published, and their collections preserved where they are open to the observation of all scientific men, namely in the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, the American

Museum of Natural History in New York City, but more than anywhere else in the Peabody Museum in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Aside from the volume already noted, Mr. Volk published reports of his early discoveries in the proceedings of the A. A. A. S. in 1894 and in the *Mem. Intern. Congress Anthropology*, 1894. In addition to "Primitive Industry" Abbott's discoveries are recorded in *Rep. Smithsonian Inst.*, 1875; "The Stone Age in New Jersey," 1877; *Rep. Peabody Museum*, 1877 and 1878; *Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist.*, 1881 and 1883; *Am. Naturalist* (Extra), 1885; *Proc. A. A. S.*, 1889; *Archæologia Nova Cæsarea*, 1907, 1908, 1909.

G. FREDERICK WRIGHT

OBERLIN,

October 6, 1919

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND THE WAR

AN appeal has been addressed to the members of the academies of the allied nations and of the United States by 177 members of the academies of neutral nations—Holland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Switzerland—represented in the International Association of Academies, the opening and concluding paragraphs of which are as follows:

In the autumn of 1813, when for years a most bitter war had been raging between France and England, the English chemist Humphry Davy set out for Italy via Paris. His biographer relates what follows about his experiences in the French capital: "Nothing could exceed the cordiality and warmth of Davy's reception by the French savants. On Nov. 2nd he attended a sitting of the First Class of the Institute and was placed on the right hand of the President, who announced to the meeting that it was honoured by the presence of 'le chevalier Davy.' Each day saw some reception or entertainment in his honour. . . . On Dec. 13th, 1813 he was with practical unanimity elected a corresponding member of the First Class of the Institute."

On October 2, 1918, when a most bitter war raging between France and Germany for four years had practically come to an end, it is stated in a meeting of the French Académie des Science, that "elle a été unanime à déclarer que les relations personnelles sont pour longtemps impossibles entre les savants des pays alliés et ceux des empires cen-

traux," so that "nous devons abandonner les anciennes associations internationales, et en créer de nouvelles entre alliés avec le concours éventuel des neutres."

Whence this painful contrast? We should rather have expected the opposite, even without indulging illusions with regard to the progress of mankind during a hundred years. For there seems to be more room for generosity when the war's misery is past than when it is still raging; more too towards a defeated enemy than towards one who is still to be feared.

Summing up what precedes we ask you earnestly and urgently: Recover your former selves. Recover the high scientific point of view which, on his deathbed, made Ampère say to a fellow worker: "il ne doit être question entre nous que de ce qui est éternel!" Once more: we understand how your attention of late has been monopolized by what is temporal and transitory. But now, you more than all the others, are called upon to find again the way to what is eternal. You possess the inclination for objective thought, the wide range of vision, the discretion, the habit of self-criticism. Of you we had expected the first step for the restoration of lacerated Europe. We call on you for co-operation in order to prevent science from becoming divided, for the first time and for an indefinite period, into hostile political camps.

THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

We learn from *The British Medical Journal* that the headquarters of the League of Red Cross Societies, which was formed in Paris, on May 5, 1919, are at 9, Cour de St. Pierre, Geneva, and the work of organization is proceeding as rapidly as possible. The founder members of the League were the American, British, French, Italian and Japanese national Red Cross societies. The following national societies have since become members, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Cuba, Denmark, Greece, Holland, India, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Rumania, Serbia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and Venezuela.

The third number of the *Bulletin* of the League gives a list of the officers and heads of departments who have already been appointed and have taken up their duties at headquarters. The director-general is Lieutenant-

General Sir David Henderson; the secretary-general is Professor William E. Rappard; the treasurer-general is M. André Pallain; the general medical director is Colonel Richard P. Strong, with Dr. Leonard Findley as director of the department of child welfare; the counsellor in international public health is Professor Rocco Santoliquido. In the departments of public health and hygiene bureaux will be organized to deal with the subjects of child welfare, tuberculosis, malaria, preventive medicine, venereal diseases and nursing.

An Inter-Allied Medical Commission was recently sent by the League at the request of the Polish government to investigate the pandemic of typhus fever in Poland. One of the gravest consequences of the devastation of Poland during the war has been the great decline in the sanitary condition of the Polish population, with a concurrent rise in the general mortality. The Inter-Allied Commission will report on the sanitary conditions in Poland, and will make recommendations as to the advisability of establishing sanitary cordons to suppress the spread of typhus into adjacent territories. When the commission has issued its report the League will be in a position to devise relief and preventive measures in the countries concerned, to propose to the Red Cross societies interested in the work an active sanitary campaign, and to urge the necessary measures that should be undertaken by the governments themselves. It is believed that the Polish pandemic of typhus originated in Russia and Ukrania.

The reports of the various sections of the medical conference held at Cannes in April last have now been published. They are printed in English, French, Italian and Spanish, and may be had on application to the Department of Information and Publication of the League.

THE TARIFF ON SCIENTIFIC APPARATUS

The *Journal* of the Washington Academy of Sciences states that the finance committee of the Senate, which has had before it the bill for a tariff on scientific supplies (H. R. 7785), decided on October 3 to postpone all