

The study of the outlines submitted has impressed the writer with the value of direct and printed discussion of the problems of the introductory course. The problems are perhaps best understood by the interchange of experience through the publication of outlines with the reasons for their preference. Progress will come through experimentation in methods, material and texts, experimentation that can never end since each year brings new teachers to the problems.

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#### PRESENT STATUS OF THE AFFAIRS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE<sup>1</sup>

It seems highly desirable that members of the association should be kept currently informed regarding the progress made in the work of the permanent secretary's office, so that they may have a somewhat clear conception of what the association is doing and how its various aims are being carried out. To this end, it is planned to publish in *SCIENCE*, from time to time, summarized reports of progress and notes on matters of general interest. The present report refers mainly to the period from April 1 to October 1, 1920.

*Publications.*—A booklet has been prepared, including the constitution and by-laws and other information. About 23,000 of these booklets have been sent to members and prospective members. Additional copies may be obtained from the permanent secretary's office. All members have been requested to fill in the blanks on an information card and a large number of these cards have been returned. The information asked for is partly for use in the preparation of the new membership list (which will be published in the spring of 1921) and partly for the files of the office. It has been found necessary to make a charge for the new membership list since the funds of the association do not allow of its publication otherwise. This charge is \$1 to members

who remitted before December 1, 1920; \$1.50 to members who remit later. The price of the volume is \$1.50 to those who are not members.

*Statement Cards.*—A new series of white cards has been devised and adopted, for presenting the annual statements to members. In all cases the reverse of the billing card bears the information blanks mentioned above and each member is asked to return the card with his remittance of dues. These cards make up the information file of members' names.

*Master File.*—A complete card list of members has been installed and is kept continually correct. These cards show the status of each member as to dues and as to membership in affiliated academies or divisions of the association.

*Application Forms.*—Application for membership is now made on a buff card bearing the information blanks, these cards being inserted in the information file as soon as the new member has been elected. No sponsors are now required for application. Election can not occur until the proper remittance has been received. A special application card (blue is used by new members of affiliated societies, who are eligible to membership in the association without payment of the regular \$5 entrance fee.

*Invitations to Join the Association.*—The campaign for increasing the membership has necessarily been somewhat restricted during 1920, on account of much other work, especially in connection with the reorganization of the office, but it will be vigorously pushed during 1921. About 9,000 invitations have been sent to newly-elected members of affiliated societies, who make application by the blue card mentioned above. A strong campaign for new members is being carried out by the Local Committee for the Chicago meeting.

*Special Offer Regarding Arrearages for 1917-19.*—This offer (see *SCIENCE*, May 7, 1920, page 470, paragraph 3) was presented to 2,175 members who were in arrears for one or more years of this three-year period. Acceptances, with payment of 1920 dues and consequent reinstatement as in good standing,

<sup>1</sup> From a report of the Permanent Secretary presented to the Executive Committee at its meeting in New York, October 17, 1920.

were received from 161 members. According to the by-laws, members who were in arrears for 1917 or 1918, and who had not taken advantage of this special offer, were dropped from the membership list on October 1.

*Notifications and Certificates.*—The engraved certificates of life-membership, membership, and fellowship have been revised, as is also true of the notifications accompanying these and the notifications of election to office. Notification forms have been prepared and brought into use for acceptance of resignation from the association and for notice of retirement from the membership list on account of arrearages for over two years.

*Divisions of the Association.*—The arrangements provided for the Pacific Division and the Southwestern Division have been carried out. New members in the geographical provinces of these divisions make their first payment to the division. After the first year, dues are paid to the permanent secretary's office. The divisions receive from the permanent secretary's office, the entrance fees obtained through their efforts and also \$1 a year for each member in good standing.

*Affiliated Academies, Etc.*—Eight state academies of science have become affiliated, being those of Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska, New Orleans, Ohio and Wisconsin. The Southern Education Society is similarly affiliated. These organizations collect the dues of their national members (who are also members of the A. A. A. S.), using white statement cards supplied from the permanent secretary's office but sent out by the affiliated organizations. Such affiliated organizations remit to the permanent secretary's office \$4 a year for each national member in good standing in the association.

*Change of Office.*—The permanent secretary's office has been moved to the third floor of the Smithsonian Institution building, the new quarters being much more satisfactory than the old ones. Mr. Sam Woodley has charge of the office, with two clerks.

*Addressograph Plates.*—Additions have been made to the addressograph plates, so that members' addresses printed therefrom show

the year of election to membership, to fellowship and to life-membership. For example, the symbol 17 denotes that election to membership occurred in 1917; 17F19 means the same, with added information that election to fellowship occurred in 1919; L19 means that the member became a life-member in 1919.

*Arrangement of Plates.*—The file of addressograph plates is now segregated into geographical groups, the members' names for each state, etc., being filed together. For states with affiliated academies, names of academy members are segregated, each such state thus having two alphabets. Furthermore, each group of plates is subdivided to show (a) those who have paid and (b) those who have not paid dues for current year, and (c) life members.

STATUS OF MEMBERSHIP (SEPTEMBER 30, 1920)	
No. of members paid-up for 1920..	9,649
No. of life members.....	353
Total paid-up membership.....	10,002
No. of members in arrears for 1919 and 1920.....	447
No. of members in arrears for 1920 only .....	938
No. of members who still owe \$2 on account of dues for 1920..	55
Total number of members not in good standing, but whose names are retained on membership list.	1,140
Total of names on membership list .....	11,442

Two hundred and one new members were elected between November 1, 1919, and October 1, 1920. Approximately 400 new members have been elected since the last-named date.

BURTON E. LIVINGSTON,  
Permanent Secretary

### SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

#### STANDARDIZATION OF INDUSTRIAL LABORATORY APPARATUS

THROUGH the efforts of certain apparatus manufacturers, there met informally at the Chemists Club, New York City, on August 2, representatives of the following companies to