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<i>Certain Aspects of Henry's Experiments on Electromagnetic Induction:</i> PRESIDENT JOSEPH S. AMES	87	<i>Scientific Apparatus and Laboratory Methods:</i>	
<i>The American Association for the Advancement of Science:</i>		<i>Photomicrography with a Vest Pocket Camera:</i> DR. OSCAR W. RICHARDS. <i>A New Technique for Obtaining Oospores of the Hop Downy Mildew by Inoculating Cotyledons:</i> DR. WALTER JONES	107
<i>The Relationships of the Natural Sciences and the Social Sciences in Agricultural Education in the United States:</i> DEAN W. C. COFFEY	92	<i>Special Articles:</i>	
<i>Scientific Events:</i>		<i>On the Variation of the Oxygen Content of Cultural Solutions:</i> DR. W. A. CANNON. <i>A Diaporthe Canker of American Elm:</i> BLYTHE G. RICHMOND. <i>A New Bacterial Disease of Pears:</i> FELICIANO M. CLARA. <i>The Production of Mucification of the Vaginal Epithelium of Rodents by the Oestrus Hormone:</i> DR. ROLAND K. MEYER and WILLARD M. ALLEN	108
<i>The Importation of Scientific Specimens and Apparatus into Great Britain; The University of Porto Rico and the U. S. Department of Agriculture; To Guadalupe Island; Professorships at Yale University in Memory of Gibbs and Sumner; Award of the First Richards Gold Medal to Professor Arthur A. Noyes</i>	97	<i>Science News</i>	8
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i>	99		
<i>Discussion:</i>			
<i>Definition of a Mathematical Group:</i> PROFESSOR G. A. MILLER. <i>Authors' Abstracts:</i> MARCUS I. GOLDMAN. <i>The Distribution of State Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletins to Foreign Countries:</i> PROFESSOR J. G. LEACH, PROFESSOR H. MACY and PROFESSOR C. H. BAILEY. <i>Auditory Action Currents:</i> DR. GEORGE KREEZER and HANS DARGE. <i>Thallium Poisoning and Soil Fertility:</i> PROFESSOR S. C. BROOKS. <i>Essential Fatty Acids and Goiter Producing Substances:</i> PROFESSOR F. E. CHIDESTER. <i>The Discovery of the Oestrus Cycle in Man and Other Mammals:</i> DR. WALTER LANDAUER. <i>Chromosome Numbers in Ulmus:</i> DR. RUTH I. WALKER	102		

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CERTAIN ASPECTS OF HENRY'S EXPERIMENTS ON ELECTROMAGNETIC INDUCTION¹

By President JOSEPH S. AMES

THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

I REGARD it as a great honor to be invited to give the first of a series of lectures before the Washington Philosophical Society, to be known as the Joseph Henry lectures, established in honor of the founder and the first president of the society.

I think it is undoubtedly proper for me to choose as the topic of this first lecture one which is related to the life of Joseph Henry, partly because of the association of his name with the lectureship, but also because this year is recognized as the one hundredth anniversary of the discovery of the phenomena of electromagnetic induction, a discovery with which the name of Joseph Henry will always be associated.

This discovery of electromagnetic induction marked

¹ An address delivered before the Philosophical Society of Washington on October 24, 1931.

the beginning of the modern era of electricity and in fact of the modern era of physics, and it is therefore most fitting that a celebration of the centennial anniversary of the discovery should take place. Last month such a celebration was held in London at the Royal Institution, to commemorate the part Michael Faraday played in the discovery. Although he was anticipated in this by Joseph Henry, so far as both mutual induction and self-induction are concerned, Faraday will always be regarded, properly, I think, as their real discoverer because he was the first to publish the results of his investigations and pointed out at the time of his first announcement the possibility of making practical application of them. Joseph Henry, himself, although he deeply regretted the fact that he had delayed publication of his investigations,

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