# SCIENCE

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### SOME RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCIENCE WITH RELATION TO GOVERNMENT<sup>1</sup>

#### By Dr. JOHN C. MERRIAM

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON

At this particular moment in history necessity for judgment on emergency questions has brought engineering, science and constructive work in sociology into important relation to government. Whatever views we may hold regarding the significance of scientific contributions in the present situation, this is a time in which questions touching the responsibilities of science to government can be discussed with hope that attention directed to the subject may aid ultimately in advancing understanding of this relation.

#### Objectives of Science Compared with those of Government

Although science and the scientific method have become almost the controlling factors in certain great

<sup>1</sup> Address at the General Session of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Berkeley, California, June 20, 1934. organized activities, as in some aspects of industry, the mode of operation of science has seemed commonly to differ sharply from that of government. Fundamentally, science relates to search for realities and principles and to their interpretation. It is the discoverer and organizer of facts. Science may also be creative, but commonly it is the inventor, engineer and artist who produce that which has not previously existed. Government is a form of organization or administration designed to make it possible for human beings to work together with mutual advantage. Its operations must be based upon realities or the truth, but their basic objective is the furnishing of means for bringing about relations among people which, according to current views of democracy, will give the maximum contribution of power or strength or wisdom for the whole group, and at the same time the

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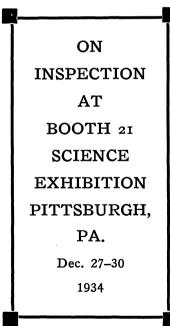
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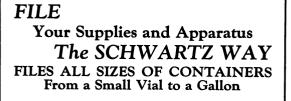
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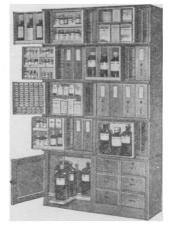
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