

but little troubled by mosquitoes and fleas or flies. On the other hand, I am susceptible to nettle stings and very susceptible to "chigger" bites if preventive treatments are not employed. I have never been bitten by poisonous snakes, tarantulas or spiders, nor stung by

bees or hornets, although prowling out of doors most of my life.

CARLETON R. BALL

EXTENSION SERVICE,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

QUOTATIONS

THE SCIENTIFIC MONTHLY AND THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

AT the April, 1925, meeting of the executive committee of the council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the editor and owner of SCIENCE offered under certain conditions to let the journal, which since 1900 had been the official organ of the association, become its absolute property. The plan was approved by the executive committee, which unanimously voted "its sincere and hearty thanks to Dr. Cattell for his most generous offer." The agreement was put in contractual form by Dr. Roscoe Pound, dean of the Harvard Law School, one of the distinguished fellows of the association, originally elected for his contributions to botany. The contract was executed by the owner of SCIENCE and Dr. Pupin, president of the association, and attested by Dr. Livingston, permanent secretary, on July 28, 1925. It was approved by a unanimous vote of the council of the association on December 30, and a committee, consisting of Drs. Pupin, Kellogg and Livingston, was appointed to express to Dr. Cattell the appreciative thanks of the association.

At the annual meeting of the association held in Atlantic City in December, 1936, a similar offer was made in regard to *The Scientific Monthly*, which has been an official journal of the association since 1907 to the extent that it may be received by members in place of SCIENCE. The offer was referred to a subcommittee consisting of Professor Edwin G. Conklin, president of the association; Professor George D. Birkhoff, president-elect, and Professor Burton E. Livingston, formerly permanent secretary. This committee reported to the executive committee meeting in New York in April, 1937, as follows:

The subcommittee is unanimously agreed that Dr. Cattell's proposal is a very generous one and that it will be of much present value to the association and may in the future become of still greater value. We, therefore, recommend that it be adopted with hearty thanks and that the President and Permanent Secretary of the Association be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary therefor and to enter into and to execute a contract for this transfer of *The Scientific Monthly* from its present owner to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in conformity with the terms of the proposal of Dr. Cattell dated December

25, 1936, and that this action be reported to the council at the Denver meeting. We also wish to express to Dr. and Mrs. Cattell our sincere appreciation of their great and long-continued services to scientific organization, co-operation and progress.

This report was unanimously approved by the executive committee and was reported to the council at the Denver meeting. In view of this action it was decided last spring to let *The Scientific Monthly* be edited at the Washington office of the association, and Dr. F. R. Moulton, permanent secretary of the association, and the late Dr. Earl B. McKinley, member of the executive committee, agreed to join in the editorship, Ware Cattell remaining as associate editor. Manuscripts and other editorial communications should now be sent to The Editors of *The Scientific Monthly*, Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C.

The Scientific Monthly, then named *The Popular Science Monthly*, was established by J. W. Youmans and the firm of D. Appleton and Company in 1872. In its earlier years organic evolution and natural selection excited controversy and wide public interest; the journal attained much influence and a relatively large circulation. The Appletons published in the United States the works of many British men of science and were able to print in the *Monthly* articles by Darwin, Spencer, Huxley, Tyndall and other leaders. After the death of the elder Youmans and the development of more technical work in science the journal became unprofitable, having been conducted for a time at an annual loss of about \$10,000. It was then sold to the present owner and editor.

The transfer of the journal to the American Association, combined with efficient editorship, should give the country a better journal of general science than it has ever before had. It should greatly increase the membership of the association and have the cooperation of all workers in science. There will be no change in editorial policy, but an endeavor will be made to make the journal not only authoritative, as it has always been, but of greater interest to those educated people who wish to follow the advances and share the spirit of science, the dominant factors in modern civilization.

The undertaking will be much more difficult without McKinley, who was admirably fitted for the editorship of a journal such as *The Scientific Monthly*. His loss with the ill-fated Hawaii Clipper, while collecting

germs in the upper air for his studies on the distribution of disease, was a disaster to science the magnitude of which can only be appreciated by those who have worked with him. He was dean of the Medical School of the George Washington University and was engaged in scientific work of originality and importance. In addition to these engagements he devoted a considerable part of his time and unlimited energy to scientific organization. In recent years he has taken

a leading part in the work of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and for it his loss is irreparable. As one of the editors of *The Scientific Monthly* he would surely have had the usefulness and the success that attended all his enterprises. McKinley had genius for scientific research, organization and administration; most of all, for friendship. There is none like him, none, nor will be.

J. McK. C.

SOCIETIES AND MEETINGS

THE SEMICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

IN recognition of the fiftieth anniversary of its founding as the New York Mathematical Society, the American Mathematical Society arranged for its summer meeting this year not only a scientific program of unusual interest, but a jubilee celebration of significance. The meetings were held from September 6 to 9, at Columbia University.

Preceded by seven sectional meetings, at which over one hundred research papers were communicated, the scientific part of the anniversary observance consisted of ten invited addresses reviewing aspects of the development of mathematics during the past fifty years and pointing out some of the indications for progress in the future. The speakers and their topics were as follows:

R. C. Archibald, Brown University, "History of the American Mathematical Society, 1888-1938."

G. D. Birkhoff, Harvard University, "Fifty Years of American Mathematics."

E. T. Bell, California Institute of Technology, "Fifty Years of Algebra in America, 1888-1938."

G. C. Evans, University of California, "Dirichlet Problems."

E. J. McShane, University of Virginia, "Recent Developments in the Calculus of Variations."

J. F. Ritt, Columbia University, "Algebraic Aspects of the Theory of Differential Equations."

J. L. Synge, University of Toronto, "Hydrodynamical Stability."

T. Y. Thomas, University of California at Los Angeles, "Recent Trends in Geometry." (Read by Mr. J. F. Daly, of Princeton University.)

Norbert Wiener, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, "The Historical Background of Harmonic Analysis."

R. L. Wilder, University of Michigan, "The Sphere in Topology."

These addresses, except that by Professor Archibald, have been published by the society under the title of "Semicentennial Addresses," as Volume II of its Semicentennial Publications. Volume I is a history of the

society written by Professor Archibald and containing in greatly amplified form the material of his lecture. The fact that these volumes were in print and ready for distribution at the time of the meeting added not a little to the import of the addresses as part of an anniversary celebration.

Several scientific exhibits dealing with the history, teaching and applications of mathematics were arranged by Columbia University and members of its faculty; these also added greatly to the celebration.

The features of the meeting more closely related to the jubilee were introduced by a reception tendered by Columbia University to the visiting mathematicians, who were received by President and Mrs. Nicholas Murray Butler. Immediately following the reception, a convocation of the society was held, at which delegates from sister organizations were introduced, and letters of greeting and felicitation presented. This gathering also afforded an occasion for the society to voice its gratitude to Columbia University for its hospitality and patronage during the half-century, for the American Mathematical Society was founded at Columbia, by Columbia men; over half of its regular meetings have been in Columbia halls; and its office and library have been housed in Columbia buildings. Professor Rudolph E. Langer, of the University of Wisconsin, vice-president of the society, delivered a brief address of appreciation on behalf of the society for what it had received from Columbia (in the words of Professor Langer) "the worthiest and sublimest of gifts . . . a portion of herself." Following this, Professor Langer presented to President Butler a copy of the address, beautifully printed on French hand-made paper, and a copy of each of the two volumes of the Semicentennial Publications, specially bound in brown pigskin and bearing a suitable dedicatory inscription. President Butler responded in a noteworthy address.

The most outstanding feature of the celebration, however, was surely the "Birthday Dinner," at which the society delighted to honor its founder, Professor Thomas Scott Fiske, of Columbia University. It must indeed be almost unique in the annals of scientific organizations for a society to be able to honor its