

Association Affairs

Association Membership Dues Increased

Nearly every scientific society and educational institution is now under financial pressures as a consequence of greatly increased costs of operation. Most of them a year or more ago increased their dues, tuitions, etc., and many of them are making further increases this year. But by strict economy the American Association for the Advancement of Science has heretofore not had to make any increases in the dues of its members. Now it must do so.

Although all operating expenses of the Association have risen greatly in recent years, the present increase in annual dues of members from \$5.00 to \$6.50 is barely sufficient, for the sake of illustration, to meet the increased costs of printing *Science* and *The Scientific Monthly*. Of course, the increase in dues could be measured against other expenses of the Association, but not so simply. Since every member of the Association receives with his membership either *Science* or *The Scientific Monthly*, the increase in dues will provide for the increased costs of the journals but not for increases in other expenses. These are being met by economies which are possible with a greatly increased membership, and from increases in receipts from advertising in *Science* because of its correspondingly larger circulation.

In 1940 there were about 21,000 members of the Association; now there are 33,000, 6,000 new names having been added to the membership roll in the past 12 months. Less than four years ago the circulation of *Science* was 17,000; now it is 25,000, the increase putting it in a higher class as an advertising medium. When its circulation exceeds 30,000 (within 18 months?), it will rate still higher as an advertising medium. These considerations make clear the fact that when members of the Association nominate their friends for membership they are indirectly giving much needed financial assistance.

The Association's weekly journal, *Science*, is in many respects similar to its prototype, *Nature*, a weekly magazine

edited and published by Macmillan & Company, Ltd., the great scientific book publishers in London, England. *Nature*, now in its 160th volume, has a wide circulation throughout the world. In format and contents *Science* is generally similar to *Nature*. Their pages are of the same size, their issues normally consist of 48 pages of text and advertising, and their contents are roughly similar. *Nature*, too, has had to contend with high costs of printing—perhaps higher than in this country. To meet these costs the annual subscription price for *Nature* has been increased to 4 pounds, 10 shillings, which is equivalent to a little more than \$18 in American money at present rates of exchange. In comparison with this subscription rate the membership dues of \$6.50 in the Association, including subscriptions for *Science* or *The Scientific Monthly*, are moderate indeed.

From the business point of view the publication of the Association's journals is a substantial undertaking. Each week more than 25,000 copies of *Science* are mailed out, or nearly 2.5 tons of paper. Each month 16,000 copies of *The Scientific Monthly* are mailed to members and nonmember subscribers, or about 3.25 tons of paper. The total for both journals per year is approximately 167 tons of paper. The cost of paper, printing, and mailing next year will be around \$140,000, or more than \$500 each working day.

In explaining in some detail the magnitude and cost of printing *Science* and *The Scientific Monthly*, partly because they are simplest and easiest understood, undue emphasis has been placed upon this part of the Association's activities. In the first place, the journals must be edited and advertisements must be secured and made ready for printing. The Association also publishes technical symposium volumes, which are edited, advertised, sold, and mailed by the office staff. The accounting force must keep accurate, classified records of all receipts and disbursements, however small the items. The billings to members and advertisers exceed 40,000 pieces of mail.

It might be inferred from the fact that it has become necessary to increase membership dues by \$1.50 per year that the

future of the Association is uncertain. Such a conclusion would be quite contrary to the opinion of its officers. Since 1938, the last year before the war broke out in Europe, the membership of the Association has increased from 19,000 to 33,000, and the rate of increase now is much greater than it has ever been in the past.

In this same period the following results were accomplished: (a) The symposium volumes comprising a total of about 4,000 quarto pages, were established, edited, advertised, and sold from the Association's offices, and more than \$83,000 was received from their sale. (b) The AAAS-Gibson Island Research Conferences (now Chemical Research Conferences) were established by Dr. Neil E. Gordon and financed by contributions of \$1,000 each from 33 industrial laboratories. In the interval since their founding, 79 five-day research conferences have been held, with a total attendance of about 4,000 scientists. (c) In 1945 members of the Association, in response to a circular letter from the administrative offices, contributed about \$95,000 toward carrying out a somewhat nebulous plan for a permanent home. Most of this sum was applied, in 1946, toward the purchase of the square facing Scott Circle. (d) The cumulative balance from operations of the administrative offices in the 9 years since 1938 has amounted to \$196,000, of which about \$96,000 has been applied toward the payment for *Science* and *The Scientific Monthly* under the contract with Dr. J. McKeen Cattell for their purchase, and about \$80,000 to complete the purchase of the entire square on which the offices of the Association are now located. (e) Since the close of the war the Association has purchased a considerable amount of much-needed office equipment and is now well supplied for efficient operations.

Although the costs of operations are at present distressingly high, the over-all picture for the Association is most encouraging. Where else in the whole world is there an organization having as great an opportunity to advance science as has the AAAS?

F. R. MOULTON
Administrative Secretary