Scientific Book Register

The Pectic Substances. Z. I. Kertesz. New York–London: Interscience, 1951. 628 pp. $13.50.

The Chemical Technology of Dyeing and Printing: Substantive, Basic, Acid and Pigment Colors, Aniline Black, and Dyestuffs for Acetate Rayon and Synthetic Fibers. Louis Diserens; trans. and revised from 2nd German ed. by Paul Wengraf and Herman P. Baumann. New York: Reinhold, 1951. 446 pp. $12.00.

Vitamin Methods, Vol. II. Paul György, Ed. New York: Academic Press, 1951. 740 pp. $14.50.

American Sociology: The Story of Sociology in the United States through 1950. Howard W. Odum. New York–London: Longmans, Green, 1951. 501 pp. $5.00.

Mineralogy: An Introduction to the Study of Minerals and Crystals. 4th ed. Edward Henry Kraus, Walter Fred Hunt, and Lewis Stephen Ramsdell. New York–London: McGraw-Hill, 1951. 664 pp. $7.50.

A History of Science, Technology, and Philosophy in the 16th & 17th Centuries (Wolf). Rev. ed. by Douglas McKie. London: Allen & Unwin; New York: Macmillan, 1950. 692 pp. $7.00.

Nomographic Charts. C. Albert Kulmann. New York–London: McGraw-Hill, 1951. 244 pp. $6.50.

College Zoology. 6th ed. Robert W. Hegner and Karl A. Stiles. New York: Macmillan, 1951. 911 pp. $6.00.

Grundlagen der Atomphysik: Eine Einführung in das Studium der Wellenmechanik und Quantenstatistik. 4th ed. Hans Adolf Bauer. Vienna: Springer-Verlag, 1951. 631 pp. $10.70.

A Color Atlas of Morphologic Hematology with a Guide to Clinical Interpretation. Geneva A. Daland; Thomas Hale Ham, Ed.; illus. by Etta Piotti. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard Univ. Press, 1951. 74 pp. $5.00.

Physiology of the Fungi. Virgil Greene Lilly and Horace L. Barnett. New York–London: McGraw-Hill, 1951. 464 pp. $7.50.

The Organization of Bones. P. Lacroix; trans. from rev. French ed. by Stewart Gilder. Philadelphia: Blakiston, 1951. 235 pp. $6.00.

Physical Biochemistry. 2nd ed. Henry B. Bull. New York: Wiley; London: Chapman & Hall, 1951. 355 pp. $5.75.

Association Affairs

AAAS Policy

A MEETING was held September 13–15 at Arden House, near Harriman, N. Y., at which the Executive Committee of the AAAS, together with a group of invited consultants, considered the basic policy and program of the AAAS. The questions studied had been previously set forth in a statement printed in SCIENCE (114, 246 [Aug. 31, 1951]).

The Arden House meeting gave consideration to a variety of detailed aspects of the present program of the AAAS and to the ways in which these might or should be modified. But the chief aim of the meeting was to discuss fundamental questions of purpose, policy, opportunity, and obligation. Once a clear and agreed framework of policy is established—and really not until then—effective approach can be made to the problems of instrumentation of policy.

It is impossible to report adequately in a brief space the full content or value of this important meeting. The conclusions tentatively reached are purely advisory in character. The group unanimously adopted a summary statement. In its formal meeting on September 16, the Executive Committee of the AAAS accepted the report of the conference of the preceding days and instructed the Administrative Secretary to publish, both in SCIENCE and in THE SCIENTIFIC MONTHLY, the summary report of the Arden House Conference.

It is most earnestly urged that every member of the AAAS study this statement carefully, and that every member who approves it, or who wishes to suggest additions, deletions, or changes in emphasis, will write his opinion to Howard A. Meyerhoff, Administrative Secretary of the AAAS, 1515 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington 5, D. C. Our Association should approach these important issues in a democratic way; and this places an obligation on each individual member.

At the next annual meeting, in Philadelphia, this matter will be considered by the Council of the AAAS. If this statement of policy appears to be generally approved by the AAAS, or if a satisfactory substitute statement can be produced, the Executive Committee plans then to set up a series of committees to study scientifically the practical problems of implementing the policies.

The statement of the Arden House Conference is as follows:

A Statement of Policy for the AAAS

Whatever its obligations to other groups and whatever its opportunities in wider fields, the AAAS is an organization of scientists for science. The AAAS must, first of all, serve scientists and science in such a way as to command the confidence and backing of the scientists of this country. Otherwise it will be in no position to meet its wider opportunities.

This central principle indicates the necessity that the AAAS re-examine those of its activities which relate primarily to the internal affairs of science in this country, improve these activities, and extend them when and where that seems desirable in view of present circumstances. This must in particular involve a most careful review of the program and policy in respect to meetings,

publications, service to scientific societies and similar groups, aids to research, and various aspects of the interrelations of science and government.

There should be explicit mention of one particularly important aspect of this internal problem of service to science. We have reached the stage where one over-all organization cannot effectively deal with the intensive and specialized interests of individual branches of science. The technical papers that present detailed results in chemistry, in physics, in mathematics, in zoology, etc., can more properly be presented before meetings sponsored and arranged by the appropriate professional groups.

It is thus clear that the AAAS should not attempt to hold to a pattern of annual meetings that was natural and effective many years ago, but which is now outmoded.

This is, in fact, only one aspect of an important general principle. In view of the present size and complexity of science, in view of the seriousness and importance of the relation of science to society, and in view of the unique inclusiveness of the AAAS, it seems clear that this organization should devote less of its energies to the more detailed and more isolated technical aspects of science, and devote more of its energies to broad problems that involve the whole of science, the relations of science to government, and indeed the relations of science to our society as a whole.

This increased emphasis on broad problems should lead to new activities in wider fields, but it also requires a modification of what the AAAS tries to do with and for science. Thus it seems clear that a major present opportunity for the AAAS within science is to act, in all ways that promise useful results, as a synthesizing and unifying influence. As an obvious example, this indicates meetings at which one branch of science is interpreted to the other branches of science, meetings at which are stressed the interrelations between the branches of science, meetings which cultivate borderline fields, and meetings at which the unifying theme would be central problems whose treatment requires the attack of several disciplines.

This opportunity to try to "put science back together" seems so important that it may be wise to modify the existing statement [quoted in the next paragraph] of the purpose of the AAAS to include more specific dedication to synthesizing activities. Such activities are, of course, wholly consistent with the present statement of purpose; but if in fact this is, as some of us feel to be the case, the major present internal opportunity of the AAAS, then it deserves explicit statement.

Finally, this same emphasis on over-all problems demands that the AAAS not only recognize but attack the broader external problem of the relation of science to society. It seems to us necessary that the AAAS now begin to take seriously one statement of purpose which has long existed in its constitution. To quote :

> The objects of the American Association for the Advancement of Science are to further the work of scientists, to facilitate cooperation among them, to improve the effectiveness of science in the promotion of human welfare, *and to increase public understanding and appreciation of the importance and promise of the methods of science in human progress.*

It is clearly recognized that the diffusion among the general public of knowledge about science and its methods is a difficult, slow, and never-ending job. It would require staff, money, patience, and wisdom. It would involve failures, and it would at some points strain the professional sensitivities of scientists. But in our modern society it is absolutely essential that science—the results of science, the nature and importance of basic research, the methods of science, the spirit of science—be better understood by government officials, by businessmen, and indeed by all the people.

We enthusiastically reaffirm our belief in the statement quoted just above as the culminating object of the AAAS; and we favor the adoption, after suitable study, of activities in this field as a major active interest of the AAAS.

It is recommended that this tentative statement of general policy be placed before the whole membership of the AAAS, and that it be sent to all the members of the Council, accompanied by a request for serious consideration and response. As soon as democratic procedures indicate that the above statement, or some then available modification of it, represents a consensus, the Executive Committee should set up a series of committees to study the practical and detailed problems of implementing these principles.

These studies themselves should be carried out in a scientific manner, with disregard of vested interests, with tempered concern for traditional procedures, and with imagination in respect to the present and future. Various aspects of the studies can doubtless be usefully aided by the methods of operations research, so that judgments can be at least partially founded on fact as well as on opinion.

Executive Committee of AAAS	Special Consultants
Roger Adams	Philip B. Armstrong
John R. Dunning	J. H. Bodine
Detlev W. Bronk	A. J. Carlson
E. B. Fred	Mervin J. Kelly
Walter S. Hunter	John E. Pfeiffer
Paul E. Klopsteg	Ralph A. Rohweder
Kirtley F. Mather	E. C. Stakman
Howard A. Meyerhoff	Marshall H. Stone
Fernandus Payne	Alan T. Waterman
Paul B. Sears	
Warren Weaver	

Arden House, September 15, 1951

It might perhaps profitably be said that the members of the Arden House Conference did not intend that this statement be viewed as a polite rephrasing which suggests only minor changes. This statement calls for four main things:

1. A real strengthening of the direct usefulness of the AAAS to scientists and to scientific societies.
2. A shift in emphasis from the more detailed aspects of the various technical branches of science to the broader problems of science as a whole.
3. The cultivation of synthesizing and unifying activities as the main emphasis of the AAAS in its internal work within the body of science.
4. The undertaking of attempts to improve public understanding of science as the main external emphasis of the AAAS.

Warren Weaver

For the Executive Committee
American Association for the Advancement of Science