

News of Science

New Editor for AAAS Journals

On 1 Jan. 1956 Graham DuShane, professor of biology on leave from Stanford University, will become editor of *Science* and *The Scientific Monthly*. Chosen after careful search, DuShane brings to this important post an admirable combination of editorial and scholarly talents. Born in Indiana in 1910, DuShane graduated from Wabash College in 1930 and entered the graduate school of Yale University to study embryological problems with Ross G. Harrison. After receiving the doctoral degree (1934), he spent two research-years at the University of Iowa (1934-35) and Stanford University (1935-36)—the latter on appointment as National Research Council fellow. In 1936 DuShane joined the staff of the department of zoology of the University of Chicago, where he remained for 10 years. In 1946 he returned to Stanford with the rank of professor and there has been primarily concerned with furthering the university's program in general biology and embryology.

Such a brief, although notable, biography does not in itself make explicit the qualifications of the man for the exacting position he has consented to accept. Responsibility for appointing the editor rests with the board of directors of the Association. In sessions devoted to this task the board saw merit in recruiting an able person with a background of professional journalism, provided that he had consistently demonstrated deep understanding of the affairs of science. Alternatively, the argument was advanced (and perhaps with greater frequency) that science should be run by its practitioners: that the editor should be a broadly informed scientist endowed with an urge and the flair to *communicate* the findings, and implications, of science with vigor and judgment. Actually, the final decision was reached, not so much on the basis of past training, but in the time-honored way of seeking the best man. This led to DuShane.

Numerous distinctions have come to DuShane in research and in teaching. His work on amphibian morphogenesis is widely and appreciatively cited. His research papers are characterized by a balance, all too rare, of history, analysis,

and synthesis. Indeed, his writings in general (including correspondence) are both originally phrased and broadly informed. His success as a teacher is equally noteworthy. In partial documentation of this may be mentioned the award of the \$1000 prize for excellence of undergraduate teaching at the University of Chicago, the acknowledged success of his biology courses at Stanford University, and the publication of two manuals for laboratory instruction. Also at Stanford, DuShane spent much time as a member of appointive and elective faculty committees devoted largely to educational planning and matters of curriculum. It is reasonable to say that these experiences have taught him much about human behavior, including the possibilities of agreement and disagreement. This background certainly will stand him in good stead as he faces the actual problems of an editorship. In 1951-52 he was president of the Stanford chapter of the American Association of University Professors and held a similar office for the Society of the Sigma Xi in 1955-56.



DuShane's advice has been frequently sought by both commercial and academic publishers as well as by editors of learned journals. In this role his response has been generous and cogent, and it is not too much to assert that frequently he has quietly improved manuscripts and suggested areas that merit further treatment in the literature. At one time DuShane was a consultant in biology to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, and he still pre-

pares each year an informative article on zoology for their *Book of the Year*.

Those of us who have known Graham DuShane as colleague and friend are sincere in our belief that his editorship will be distinguished. His unusually comprehensive knowledge of science in general, his impatience with false notions of hierarchies among the several sciences, his facility with the written and spoken word, and his conviction that science and scientists deserve expert interpretation to the public, all augur well for the future of our two journals.

We welcome DuShane to his new position and what we hope will be his new career.

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Poverty Point Excavations

Archeological materials that were excavated last spring from Poverty Point site on Bayou Macon, 5 miles northeast of Epps, La., are being studied and cataloged by James A. Ford, associate curator of North American archeology at the American Museum of Natural History. He headed a study group that included Junius B. Bird, associate curator of archeology at the American Museum of Natural History, and Stewart Neitzel, archeologist of the Louisiana State Parks Commission.

According to Ford, Poverty Point, which is the site of the oldest known village in the lower Mississippi Valley, was inhabited by an advanced Stone Age Indian people between 800 and 400 B.C., and the initial settlement marked the beginning of what may be called the "American Neolithic" period. Focal point of the ancient community was a great mound of earth that was constructed in the shape of a flying bird. The mound is now 70 feet higher than the surrounding alluvial flats.

The remains of the village are a few hundred yards east of the great mound; they form a half-octagon about ¾ mile in diameter. The houses were built on artificial ridges that formed concentric octagons, and excavations have shown that the sides of these ridges served as refuse heaps for the community.

A second mound, some 56 feet high and lying to the north of the village, is also constructed in the shape of a bird. The artificial nature of both bird-effigy mounds is beyond question, Ford reported, for examination of their earth has revealed the imprints of baskets used to carry clay for their construction. The absence of human artifacts in both mounds indicates that they served some purpose other than habitation.

Excavation of a third mound close to