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New Things in Three Dimensions

Large-scale exhibits have been an integral and important feature of AAAS meetings since 1924. In accord with the diversity of the Association's conventions, with all principal fields of science represented by the programs of the sections and the participating societies, the exhibits are both numerous and varied. Each of the major fields of science is sufficiently represented at the meetings to warrant the participation of exhibitors with lines of particular interest. Thus, for example, some exhibits will appeal especially to astronomers, geologists, physicists, biologists, or medical researchers, but will not be without interest to those in other disciplines. In recent years, the publishers, instrument makers, and larger supply houses have been joined by such agencies as *Biological Abstracts*, the Educational Testing Service, the National Science Foundation, and the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies, as well as a growing number of large industries showing highly informative institutional exhibits.

At Indianapolis this year, the AAAS Annual Exposition of Science and Industry will be especially rich in displays of advances in pharmaceuticals and electronics and of the components and adjuncts of jet aircraft and guided missiles. This is apparent from the list of this year's exhibitors and the descriptions of their exhibits which is to be found in subsequent pages of this issue. The 1957 Exposition is worth a trip to Indianapolis for itself alone. We hope those who are going for the sessions will not fail to budget time for an adequate survey of the Exposition.

The exhibitors have much to offer visiting scientists and, conversely, they may receive much in return. The representatives of the participating firms, in addition to showing their latest aids for science, may also be able to provide just the bit of information or the helpful suggestion on techniques that one can use; in return, they will welcome expressions of new needs or requirements from those they serve.

During the brief span of the meeting period, both those who produce the tools of science and those who use them have opportunities to meet each other on a scale that dwarfs the number of calls the same representatives can make to widely scattered campuses, when, also, scientists may be preoccupied with their daily activities. The exhibitors and the scientists meet each other not primarily to place or accept orders at the moment, but essentially to exchange information in a way that no printed brochure or sales letter can match.

In a literal sense, the actual display of the latest in books, instruments, and laboratory supplies—or some of the most recent technological advances of industry—are three-dimensional, tangible information pieces, willingly explained to all who are sufficiently interested to pause before a booth.—RAYMOND L. TAYLOR