

Thomas Park, President-Elect

There are several things that the Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science must keep in mind in electing a president. He should be a man who has made contributions to his field of science that command the respect of the scientific community. He should have administrative ability. He should have had experience with the problems of the organization of science, problems that are rapidly approaching the crisis stage in this country. His field should be an important one, but different from the fields of his immediate predecessors in order that a proper balance in the activities of the Association may be maintained.

The man whom the Council has chosen as president-elect for 1960, Thomas Park, professor of zoology at the University of Chicago, meets all these qualifications. He will succeed a pharmacologist whose predecessors were a physicist and an organic chemist. He himself is an animal ecologist and, in particular, one concerned with the dynamics of populations.

While his work has been concerned with beetles, it has had very important implications for human beings. It bears, indeed, on the question of the very persistence of mankind, or at least of civilized man, in the explosive situation brought about by the world-wide decrease in mortality rates and the lack of compensating decreases in birth rates. The alternatives are violent reduction or even extinction of the human species, perhaps by way of the hydrogen bomb; expansion to a violently fluctuating upper limit, controlled by the availability of necessities for bare subsistence; or attainment of ecologic equilibrium with the resources of the world at such a level that progress in civilization remains possible. Park brings a keen awareness of the population problem to the thinking of organized science.

Park has been a member of the Board of Directors of the American Association for the Advancement of Science since 1954. He has served as chairman

of the Publications Committee since 1955, and he served as a member of the Newcomb Cleveland Prize Committee from 1956 to 1958. He thus has firsthand familiarity with the potentialities of the Association for promoting the development of science for the welfare of this country.

He has also been active in affiliated societies and other scientific organizations in his field of interest. He was president of the Ecological Society of America in 1959, a member of the policy committee of the American Society of Zoologists in 1957-58, and a member of the Environmental Biology Panel of the National Science Foundation. He has served as editor of *Ecology* (1940-50), as editor of *Physiological Zoology* (1955-), and as a member of the editorial boards of the *Quarterly Review of Biology* (1938-) and the *American Naturalist* (1951-59). He has been zoological adviser to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* since 1950. Moreover, he brings to American science experience as a Rockefeller Foundation fellow at Oxford University (1948), where he worked with Charles Elton; this was fol-



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lowed by a four-month appointment as scientific attaché of the American Embassy in London.

Thomas Park was born 17 November, 1908 in Danville, Illinois, the son of Samuel Thomas and Sophronia (Stealey) Park. He graduated from the University of Chicago in 1930 and received his Ph.D., also from the University of Chicago, in 1932, under the late W. C. Allee.

I became acquainted with Park in 1927 when he attracted my attention as being among the 10 percent who earned A's in each of two large undergraduate courses that I was conducting. His promise as an undergraduate was fully borne out by his performance in two of my courses in genetics that he took as a graduate student, while specializing in another field. It has been borne out in increasing measure by his career since that time.

After receiving his doctorate, Park spent several years at Johns Hopkins, where, as a national research fellow, instructor, and associate, he came under the stimulating influence of the late Raymond Pearl. He there continued the intensive study of the dynamics of populations that he has made his life work. He was called back to the University of Chicago in 1937 as instructor and rose through the various grades to the professorship (1947) that he still holds.

In his research program, he has used two species of flour beetles, *Tribolium confusum* and *T. castaneum*, animals that have an unusual combination of favorable characteristics for the analysis of population dynamics. It is safe to say that, as a result of his efforts and those of a large group of enthusiastic graduate and postgraduate students, and, recently, the cooperation of Jerzy Neyman and his co-workers at the University of California, there is no other animal in which the analysis of population dynamics has been carried so far.

Each of the above species reaches a fluctuating equilibrium in numbers which can be maintained for years under specified conditions. The results of competition have been especially instructive. In any given mixed population, one or the other species always becomes extinct. Under certain conditions, one species wins out 100 percent, but this is not necessarily the one that does best by itself under the same conditions. Under other specifiable conditions, the result is indeterminate. Each species wins out in a characteristic percentage

of the cases; again, there is no direct relationship to the degree of success of that species when it is alone. The interpretation requires the introduction of stochastic as well as deterministic processes.

As by-products of these researches, Park has found a number of Mendelian mutations of *Tribolium* species which present interesting material for joint studies in population dynamics and genetics.

Park and his students have published numerous papers dealing with their researches. In addition, he is coauthor with the late W. C. Allee and with Alfred Emerson, both of the University of Chicago, with the late Karl P. Schmidt of the Chicago Natural History

Museum, and with his brother, Orlando Park of Northwestern University, of the comprehensive and widely used *Principles of Animal Ecology*.

He was married in 1928 to Martha Alden Whitehead. Their daughters, Sherley Louise and Judith, are both married, and the Parks have several grandchildren. Many of us, faculty and students, who have left the University of Chicago, have a rich store of happy memories of the hospitality of Tom and Martha Park.

As I have mentioned, Park has served in important administrative positions. My own direct observations of his ability along this line have been restricted to observations of his performance in such administrative positions at

the University of Chicago as secretary of the zoology department during a difficult period and as associate dean of the division of biological sciences from 1943 to 1947. I have been impressed by two characteristics that do not always go together. One is the meticulously systematic way in which he breaks down his problems and organizes his work. The other is his concern for people. Tom Park likes people and likes to help them in their problems, and he does so very effectively. The American Association for the Advancement of Science is to be congratulated on the prospect of his leadership in 1961.

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AAAS Council Meeting, 1959

Dael Wolfe

The AAAS Council held two sessions during the annual meeting of the Association in Chicago, 26 to 31 December. Both sessions were under the chairmanship of President Paul E. Klopsteg, and both were held at the Morrison Hotel. One hundred and seventeen members attended the first session, at 4:00 P.M. on 27 December, and 134 the second session, at 9:00 A.M. on 30 December.

Elections and Officers

The President announced that Council, by mail ballot, had elected Thomas Park as president-elect and Harrison Brown and Alfred Romer as members of the Board of Directors. The vacancy on the Board created by the election of Park as president-elect was filled by the Board by the selection of Don K. Price.

The vice presidents and chairmen

of sections, as elected by the Council, are listed on pages 506 to 510. The Executive Officer reported that the Board of Directors had reelected Herbert A. Smith of the U.S. Office of Education as Secretary of Section Q—Education and had elected Stanley S. Ballard of the University of Florida as Secretary of Section B—Physics, Harriet B. Creighton of Wellesley College as Secretary of Section G—Botany, and Frank W. Finger of the University of Virginia as Secretary of Section I—Psychology. All four were elected for 4-year terms, 1960 through 1963.

Election of Council members to serve on the Committee on Nominations was postponed, and the President was requested to name an *ad hoc* committee to select a slate of names to be submitted to the Council for vote by mail. The President subsequently named A. C. Smith, Conrad Taeuber, and William A. Wildhack to serve as the *ad hoc* committee.

Affiliates

Upon recommendation by the Committee on Affiliation and with the concurrence of the Board of Directors, the Council elected the following organizations as affiliates of the Association: Academy of Psychoanalysis, American Speech and Hearing Association, Association of Clinical Scientists, Medical Correctional Association, New Jersey Academy of Science, and Society for the History of Technology. These elections bring the number of organizations affiliated with the AAAS to 291.

Metric Usage

Wilmer Souder, chairman of the Committee on Metric Usage, presented the following report on behalf of the committee (other members are John T. Johnson, Robert J. Painter, William G. Pollard, Henry D. Sharpe, Jr., and C. A. Whitten).

"1. The primary task assigned to the Special Committee at the 1958 meeting is to study the report of the British Association and bring a recommendation to the 1959 meeting of the AAAS. The expected report has not been received. Consequently, no study could be made. (See recommendation 3 below.)

"2. Recent private correspondence indicates that the British Committee is unlikely to recommend compulsory adoption of the metric system by the United Kingdom now or in the near future.