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THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

THE CLEVELAND MEETING

By Dr. F. R. Moulton

PERMANENT SECRETARY

In November, 1942, shortly after the Allied forces had landed in Africa, the association canceled the meeting that had been scheduled to be held in New York during the last days of December and the first days of January. At the time the New York meeting was canceled the program was being set in type and the association had spent more than $3,000 in preparation for it.

The postponement of the New York meeting was made in compliance with a circular letter received from the Office of Defense Transportation and requests made at a conference with its representatives. Although the ODT had no power to compel the cancellation of the meeting, the officers of the association felt it to be their duty to comply with the request of an agency of the Government under the conditions that then existed. In continuation of that policy no meeting was scheduled for 1943. In a second “release,” dated July 15, 1943, the ODT stated: “Each organization must make its own independent decisions. The Office of Defense Transportation cannot pass upon the essentiality of any proposed meeting. It can only emphasize the serious burdens which convention and group-meeting travel imposes on transportation and request voluntary action by those who have it in their power to eliminate such travel.” The association had long before decided to hold no meeting during 1943.

Although the association and the affiliated societies that usually meet with it uncomplainingly refrained
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