THE FIFTH CLEVELAND MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE AND ASSOCIATED SOCIETIES

Edited by Dr. F. R. Moulton

PERMANENT SECRETARY

From September 11 to 16, 1944, the one hundred and eleventh meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science was held in Cleveland, Ohio. Four meetings of the association had previously been held in Cleveland, the first in 1853 and later ones in 1888, 1913 and 1931. A meeting scheduled for Cleveland in 1852 was canceled because of an epidemic of yellow fever that prevailed from the Ohio River southward. This was the only time in 96 years that a meeting of the association was interfered with by disease, but during that interval there were seven years in which the association held no meetings because of war. Five of those years were 1861 to 1865, inclusive, when those who together had won their political freedom became for a time bitter enemies; and the remaining two were the years 1942 and 1943, when nearly all the world was at war.

Only 43 papers were presented at the Cleveland meeting in 1853, and 215 in 1888. In 1913 the number had increased to 813, and in 1931 to 1,380. At the recent meeting the number of addresses and papers had declined to fewer than 1,000 because of the many distractions due to the war. The membership of the association in 1853, 1888, 1913 and 1931 was 940, 1,764, 8,333 and 19,059, respectively. This year at a corresponding date was 25,000, in round numbers.

SOME GENERAL IMPRESSIONS

First on the list of general impressions of the Cleveland meeting is that it was much better than any one