Association Business

At Cleveland last December, the Council discussed ways and means of keeping itself and the members of the Association better informed about Association activities, and it was the consensus that more extended use should be made of SCIENCE for this purpose. To some extent this is done under the caption of Association Affairs, where announcements of meetings may appear to be the major concern of the administrative staff. That this is but a single facet of AAAS activity will be evident from a résumé of the business transacted at the meeting of the Executive Committee on April 7-8.

The Council’s vote on the resolutions relative to the use and continued training of scientific and technological manpower (Science, 113, 3 [March 16, 1951]) was reviewed, and further action was considered, particularly in view of current efforts on the part of several Congressmen to annul orders to draft boards to defer students on any basis of selection. Just what scientists can do to educate a segment of the public and some Congressmen to the point of recognizing the value of training in this modern world is problematical, but at least scientists as citizens can be as vocal as this species of agnostic.

Association finances were found to have been healthy in 1950, but increased costs and smaller advertising volume in SCIENCE were noted as factors that will cut the margin between income and expenditures substantially in 1951. The Executive Committee authorized publication of the auditors’ statement for 1949 (Science, 113, 563 [1951]), which, though a year old, parallels the 1950 situation closely.

Committee personnel for 1951 was confirmed, and committee reports were presented. Reporting for the Committee on Affiliation and Association, Dr. Soule recommended that the American Geophysical Union, the American Political Science Association, and The Nature Conservancy be accorded affiliated status; the American Society of Medical Technologists, associated status. This brings to 223 the number of organizations affiliated or associated with the AAAS.

Plans for the Philadelphia meeting in December were surveyed, and action was taken to assure appointments of a general chairman, local committees, and a symposium committee. Looking into the future beyond the St. Louis meeting of 1952 and the Boston meeting of 1953, the Executive Committee authorized a detailed survey of San Francisco as a possible locale for the 1954 convention, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee and Council of the Pacific Division. Chicago was placed under active consideration for 1955; New York, for 1956.

Approval was given a new constitution and bylaws for the Lancaster (Pennsylvania) Branch of the AAAS, and hearty endorsement was accorded well-formulated plans submitted by the scientists of Alaska to create an Alaska Division of the Association, with immediate recognition of the Cook Inlet and Arctic branches. The proposed division wishes to organize a second Alaskan Scientific Conference to be held in September, and the National Research Council, which called the first Alaskan Scientific Conference in Washington last year, and the Arctic Institute of North America will cooperate in the development of the program. Not only was regional expansion of Association interests a subject of discussion; the organization of a Section (P) on Industrial Science was looked upon with favor, too. The American Industrial Hygiene Association, a recent affiliate, has taken the initiative in seeking the establishment of such a section, which will, it is hoped, embrace industrial research activities in every field. If the Council approves, the Association may finish 1951 one section and one division greater.

The Executive Committee’s next meeting will be held on the campus of Indiana University on June 30 and July 1.

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