The American Association for the Advancement of Science has been an important event in the history of science in America, giving as it does official recognition to the development of science in the west. The scientific men of the country have been mostly collected together on the Atlantic seaboard between Boston and Washington, and the membership of the scientific societies has been chiefly in this region. The American Association has not hitherto met further to the west than St. Louis, and at the meeting in that city, twenty-three years ago, there were only 134 members in attendance, while two years later at Boston the attendance was 997.

During its first hundred years the nation was in scientific matters somewhat in the relation of a colony to Europe. Our students went abroad for study; we depended on Europe for our journals and books, and did not contribute our share to the work of the world. During the subsequent twenty-five years great progress has been made. The opening of the Johns Hopkins University in 1876 marked and helped to create a new epoch in university education. In the same year, the American Chemical Society was organized, leading the way in the establishment of our national societies devoted to special sciences. At about the same