SCIENCE

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CONTENTS:
The American Association for the Advancement of Science:—
Scientific Investigation and Progress:
President Ira Remsen.......................... 1
The Twentieth Century Botany: Beverly T. Galloway ........................................ 11
Vitalism and Mechanism in Biology and Medicine: Dr. S. J. Melzer......................... 18
Scientific Books:—
Davison's Mammalian Anatomy: J. P. McM. 22
Societies and Academies:—
Dr. Walter Hough............................... 23
Discussion and Correspondence:—
The Animal Parasite supposed to be the Cause of Yellow Fever: Dr. H. W. Robinson 29
Shorter Articles:—
The New Cosmical Meteorology: Dr. Frank H. Bigelow. Horticultural Varieties of Common Crops: Dr. W. J. Spillman........... 30
Recent Zoopaleontology:—
Field Expeditions during the Past Season:
H. F. O........................................... 35
Botanical Notes:—
The Missouri Botanical Garden; An Elementary Journal of Mycology; Some Recent Papers on Systematic Botany; Chemistry of Plant and Animal Life: Professor Charles E. Bessey.............................. 36
The Carnegie Institution........................ 37
Scientific Notes and News........................ 38
University and Educational News.............. 40

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SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION AND PROGRESS.*

At the weekly services of many of our churches it is customary to begin with the reading of a verse or two from the Scriptures for the purpose, I suppose, of putting the congregations in the proper state of mind for the exercises which are to follow. It seems to me we may profit by this example, and accordingly I ask your attention to Article I. of the Constitution of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which reads thus: ‘The objects of the association are, by periodical and migratory meetings, to promote intercourse between those who are cultivating science in different parts of America, to give stronger and more general impulse and more systematic direction to scientific research, and to procure for the labors of scientific men increased facilities and a wider usefulness.’

The first object mentioned, you will observe, is ‘to promote intercourse between those who are cultivating science in different parts of America’; the second is ‘to give a stronger and more general impulse and more systematic direction to scientific research’; and the third is ‘to procure for the labors of scientific men increased facilities and a wider usefulness.’ Those who are familiar with the history of the association are well aware that it has served its purposes admirably, and I am inclined to think that those who have been

* Address of the retiring president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, St. Louis meeting, December 28, 1903.