

SCIENCE

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THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

COOPERATION AMONG AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETIES.*

IN considering the many ways in which the science having as its special province the study of the earth's surface can be enhanced and its service to mankind rendered more efficient through the agency of geographical societies, five subordinate themes present themselves for consideration. These are: The scope and aim of geography; the methods of gathering and distributing geographical knowledge; the functions of geographical societies; the present status of the geographical societies in America; and in what ways can the geographical societies of this country increase their influence and enlarge their usefulness?

THE SCOPE AND AIM OF GEOGRAPHY.

The proportions of a great mountain seem to vary according to the point of view of the beholder, and the impressions it makes on various minds also vary, as may be said, in reference to their sensitiveness to thought-waves of different length. To the dweller in a vale at a mountain's base, its sublime slopes do not present the same picture that is beheld by the traveler on a neighboring plain; the impressions its weathered battlements awaken in the mind of the untutored savage have but a faint resemblance to the train of thought started

* Address of the vice-president and chairman of Section E—Geology and Geography, Philadelphia, December, 1904.

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