

# SCIENCE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, PUBLISHING THE  
OFFICIAL NOTICES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 1906.

## CONTENTS.

<i>The American Association for the Advancement of Science:—</i>	
<i>Economics as a Science: PROFESSOR IRVING FISHER</i> .....	257
<i>Section D—Mechanical Science and Engineering: PROFESSOR WM. T. MAGRUDER</i> ....	261
<i>Section G—Botany: DR. D. T. MACDOUGAL</i>	268
<i>Scientific Books:—</i>	
<i>Kobold on Der Bau des Fixsternsystems: G. C. C.</i> .....	270
<i>Scientific Journals and Articles</i> .....	271
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:—</i>	
<i>The Smithsonian Institution and the Museum Idea: DR. GUSTAVUS D. HINRICHS. Is not the Smithsonian an Institute of Research?: DR. ALBERT M. REESE</i> .....	273
<i>Special Articles:—</i>	
<i>Yellow Mice and Gametic Purity: PROFESSOR W. E. CASTLE. Preliminary Description of Two New Species of the Genus Diceratherium Marsh, from the Agate Spring Fossil Quarry: O. A. PETERSON</i> .....	275
<i>Botanical Notes:—</i>	
<i>Some Recent Botanical Books; A Study of the Coconut Tree: PROFESSOR CHARLES E. BESSEY</i> .....	283
<i>Disputed Vesuvian Eruptions: DR. C. R. EASTMAN</i> .....	284
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i> .....	286
<i>University and Educational News</i> .....	288

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the Editor of SCIENCE, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

## THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE. ECONOMICS AS A SCIENCE.<sup>1</sup>

THAT economic and social studies should be carried on with the scientific method and spirit is not likely to be denied by any one here present. And yet there are persons who would have us believe that these important fields of investigation are by nature incapable of such a treatment. Even among economic students we find many writers of the type of Cliffe Leslie, who definitely disclaim that economics is a science, and class it rather as a branch of history. There has always been more or less hesitation as to the place economic studies should occupy as between the historical and scientific poles. The tendency to lean toward the historical side is indicated by the fact that the American Economic Association has regularly met in conjunction with the American Historical Association, while the tendency toward the scientific side is indicated by the fact that this section exists as a branch of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Those who maintain that economics is not and never can be a true science base their contention on the fact that social phenomena are not constant, 'like,' they say, 'the phenomena of astronomy or physics,' but differ widely at different times and under different circumstances. They point out that the determination of prices

<sup>1</sup> Address of the chairman of Section I of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, at the Ithaca meeting, July, 1906.

# Science

**24 (609)**

*Science* **24** (609), 257-288.

**ARTICLE TOOLS**

<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/24/609.citation>

**PERMISSIONS**

<http://www.sciencemag.org/help/reprints-and-permissions>

Use of this article is subject to the [Terms of Service](#)

---

*Science* (print ISSN 0036-8075; online ISSN 1095-9203) is published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1200 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20005. 2017 © The Authors, some rights reserved; exclusive licensee American Association for the Advancement of Science. No claim to original U.S. Government Works. The title *Science* is a registered trademark of AAAS.