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THE INFLUENCE OF ASTRONOMY ON
MATHEMATICS

There are probably many reasons why
the members of the eleven sections of the
American Association, representing at
least fifteen sciences, have united in a
single society. One of these is undoubt-
edly that the mingling of men of varied
chief interests, points of view and methods
of work has at least a tendency to correct
those intellectual provincialisms which are
characteristic of isolation, and to show how
wide and how rich is the field of scientific
activity. While it is unquestionably advan-
tageous on some occasions for narrower
groups of men whose interests are more
nearly common and whose scientific activi-
ties run more nearly in the same channel,
to meet apart for the consideration of their
own special problems, yet on the whole the
benefits to be derived from occasional joint
meetings are so great that it is earnestly
hoped the American Association will pros-
er in the future even more than it has
prospered in the past, and that the indi-
vidual scientific societies will not cease to
cooperate with it.

If it is agreed that there are real benefits
to be derived from an association of many
distinct scientific societies, it will equally
be granted that some advantages may be
obtained from a meeting where so many
points of view, modes of thought, and
methods of investigation are represented
among the members of Section A.

These diverse, and in some cases conflict-
ing, points of view have arisen from the
narrow specialization of recent times, and
from the fact that the bounds of our
knowledge have extended more rapidly