

SCIENCE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1914

ADDRESS TO THE BOTANICAL SECTION OF
THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE¹

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MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

To preside over the Botanical Section on the occasion of its first meeting in Australia is no slight honor, though it also imposes no small responsibility. We members from Great Britain have a deep sense of the advantage which we derive from visiting these distant shores. I am doubtful whether any scientific profit we can confer by our coming here can balance that which we receive; while over and above this is the personal kindness of the Australian welcome, which on behalf of the visitors of this section from the old country I take this opportunity of gratefully acknowledging. Of the members of the British Association, those who pursue the national sciences may expect to gain most by their experiences here; and perhaps it is the botanists who stand to come off best of all. Living as most of us do in a country of old cultivation, the vegetation of which has been controlled, transformed, and from the natural floristic point of view almost ruined by the hand of man, it is with delight and expectation that we visit a land not yet spoiled. To those who study ecology, that branch of the science which regards vegetation collectively as the natural resultant of its external circumstances, the antithesis will come home with special strength, and the opportunity now before them of seeing nature in her pristine state will not, I am sure, be thrown away.

I may be allowed here to express to the Australian members of the Section my regret that the presidency for this occasion

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