

SCIENCE

VOL. LX

AUGUST 8, 1924

No. 1545

CONTENTS

<i>The British Association for the Advancement of Science:</i>	
<i>Prevention of Disease:</i> SIR DAVID BRUCE.....	109
<i>Organized Cooperation among Museums:</i> LAURENCE VAIL COLEMAN	124
<i>The Franklin Institute</i>	126
<i>Scientific Events:</i>	
<i>American Proposals to the International Geodetic and Geophysical Union; Reorganization of the Bureau of Mines; New Endowment for the Johns Hopkins University</i>	128
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i>	130
<i>University and Educational Notes</i>	133
<i>Quotations:</i>	
<i>Some Reminiscences of Lord Kelvin; Evolution in Georgia</i>	133
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:</i>	
<i>Edward Hitchcock and the Origin of the Association of American Geologists:</i> DR. FREDERICK TUCKERMAN. <i>Ball Lightning:</i> DR. W. J. HUMPHREYS. <i>Science and Industry:</i> DR. F. L. WELLS... 134	
<i>Scientific Books:</i>	
<i>Report of the Committee for the Investigation of Atmospheric Pollution:</i> DR. ALEXANDER MCADIE.....	136
<i>Special Articles:</i>	
<i>Sensitive Flames and Apparent Flame Pressure:</i> PROFESSOR CARL BARUS	137
<i>The Royal Society of Canada:</i>	
<i>Section V—Biological Sciences</i>	138
<i>Science News</i>	x

SCIENCE: A Weekly Journal devoted to the Advancement of Science, edited by J. McKeen Cattell and published every Friday by

THE SCIENCE PRESS

Lancaster, Pa.

Garrison, N. Y.

New York City: Grand Central Terminal.

Annual Subscription, \$6.00. Single Copies, 15 Cts.

SCIENCE is the official organ of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Information regarding membership in the association may be secured from the office of the permanent secretary, in the Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C.

Entered as second-class matter July 18, 1923, at the Post Office at Lancaster, Pa., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

PREVENTION OF DISEASE¹

My first duty is to thank the general committee of the British Association for the great honor they have done me by electing me to the post of president. I must confess I wondered at first why I had been chosen, but soon came to the conclusion that it was an honor done through me to all army medical officers for the magnificent work done by them during the great war in the prevention of disease and alleviation of pain and suffering.

In the next place, I may be permitted to remind you that this is the fourth time the British Association for the Advancement of Science has met in Canada—first in 1884 in Montreal, in this city in 1897, and in Winnipeg in 1909. The addresses given on these occasions dealt with the advancement of knowledge in archeology and physics.

It is now my privilege, as a member of the medical profession, to address you on the advances made during the same period in our knowledge of disease and our means of coping with and preventing it.

An address on the prevention of disease at first sight does not promise to be a very pleasant subject, but, after all, it is a humane subject, and also a most important subject, as few things can conduce more to human happiness and human efficiency than the advancement of knowledge in the prevention of disease.

Think for a moment of the enormous loss of power in a community through sickness. Some little time ago the English Minister of Health, when emphasizing the importance of preventive work, said that upwards of 20,000,000 weeks of work were lost every year through sickness among insured workers in England. In other words, the equivalent of the work of 375,000 people for the whole year had been lost to the state. When to that is added the corresponding figure for the non-insured population you get some idea of the importance of preventive work.

Another way of estimating the value of prevention is in terms of dollars, or pounds, shillings and pence, and it has lately been calculated that the direct loss in England and Wales from sickness and disability amounts to at least £150,000,000 a year. In the United States, with a much larger population, the loss is put down at £600,000,000.

Another reason why this is an important subject is that medicine in the future must change its strategy, and instead of awaiting attack must assume the offensive. Instead of remaining quietly in the dressing

¹ Address of the president at the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, Toronto, Canada, August 6, 1924.

Science

60 (1545)

Science **60** (1545), ix-138.

ARTICLE TOOLS

<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/60/1545.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.