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VISION IN NATURE AND VISION AIDED BY
SCIENCE; SCIENCE AND WARFARE'

By The Rt. Hon. LORD RAYLEIGH
PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION

I. VISION, AND ITS ARTIFICIAL AIDS AND
   SUBSTITUTES

The last occasion that the British Association met at Cam-
bridge was in 1904, under the presidency of my
revered relative, Lord Balfour, who at the time actually
held the position of Prime Minister. That a Prime
Minister should find it possible to undertake this addi-
tional burden brings home to us how much the pace
has quickened in national activities, and I may add,
anxieties, between that time and this.

Lord Balfour in his introductory remarks recalled
the large share which Cambridge had had in the develop-
ment of physics from the time of Newton down to

1 Address of the President of the British Association
   for the Advancement of Science, Cambridge, August, 1938.

that of J. J. Thomson and the scientific school centered
in the Cavendish Laboratory, "whose physical specu-
lations," he said, "bid fair to render the closing year
of the old century and the opening ones of the new as
notable as the greatest which have preceded them.
It is a great pleasure to me, as I am sure it is to all
of you, that my old master is with us here to-night, as
he was on that occasion. I can say in his presence
that the lapse of time has not failed to justify Lord
Balfour's words. What was then an intelligent antici-
pation is now a historical fact.

I wish I could proceed on an equally cheerful note.
The reputation of the scientific school in the Cavendish
Laboratory has been more than sustained in the inter-
val under the leadership of one whose friendly pres-