

SCIENCE

VOL. 95

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1942

No. 2464

<i>Elihu Thomson</i> : PRESIDENT KARL T. COMPTON	285	<i>Scientific Books:</i>	
<i>Group Organization Among Vertebrates</i> : PROFESSOR W. C. ALLEE	289	<i>Darwin and Our Intellectual Heritage</i> : PROFESSOR TH. DOBZHANSKY	303
<i>Obituary:</i>		<i>Special Articles:</i>	
<i>John Alexander McGeoch</i> : PROFESSOR CARL E. SEASHORE. <i>Recent Deaths</i>	293	<i>Growth Stimulation by Sulfanilamide in Low Concentration</i> : DR. CARL LAMANNA. <i>Increased Liver Arginase on Administration of Adrenocortical and Corticotropic Hormones</i> : DR. HEINZ FRAENKEL-CONRAT and DR. H. M. EVANS. <i>The Effect of a Preparation of Amine Oxidase on Experimental Hypertension</i> : DR. HENRY A. SCHROEDER	304
<i>Scientific Events:</i>		<i>Scientific Apparatus and Laboratory Methods:</i>	
<i>The Royal Observatory at the Cape of Good Hope; New Kodachrome Slide Series of the American Museum of Natural History; Forest Fire Protection; Committee of Examinations and Tests of the American Chemical Society; American Standards for 1942; War Work of the Department of Psychology of Yale University; The American Society of Naturalists</i>	294	<i>The Use of Bromoform in the Separation of Non-calcareous Microfossils</i> : ARTHUR S. KNOX. <i>A New Medium for Melting-Point Baths</i> : JONAS KAMLET	307
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i>	297	<i>Science News</i>	10
<i>Discussion:</i>			
<i>Insects and Epidemiology of Poliomyelitis</i> : DR. ALBERT B. SABIN and ROBERT WARD. <i>Plagiotropic Habit of Growth in Norway Spruce</i> : PROFESSOR CARL G. DEUBER. <i>A Simple Air-Raid Alarm</i> : DR. ROBERT T. HATT. <i>Entomology and Warfare</i> : DR. T. D. A. COCKERELL	300		
<i>Quotations:</i>			
<i>Impacts of the War on Agricultural Science as Indicated by the December Society Meetings</i>	302		

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.

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.

ELIHU THOMSON¹ 1853-1937

By Dr. KARL T. COMPTON

PRESIDENT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

FOR one destined to apply his genius largely toward harnessing electricity for the work and comfort of man, the decade beginning with 1850 was a timely period in which to be born. The preceding half century had witnessed the fundamental discoveries which underlie the utilization of electricity, and imaginative minds had begun to direct these discoveries into the broad channels of practical and commercial employment.

In the development of the electrical art this first half of the nineteenth century was a remarkable fifty years, and because it provided the foundation for the

¹ Condensed from a memoir presented to the National Academy of Sciences.

practical achievements which came in the second half, a review of it helps to give perspective to this memoir on Elihu Thomson.

The century opened auspiciously with Volta's discovery of the voltaic cell, and with the demonstration by Nicholson and Carlisle of electrolysis. In 1820 Oersted announced his discovery that an electric current has the power to deflect a magnetic needle. In this same year Ampere brilliantly elucidated Oersted's discovery by giving mathematical expression to the forces produced by electric currents. Six years later Ohm announced the formulation of his law that current is proportional to the electromotive force, and

Science

95 (2464)

Science **95** (2464), 285-308.

ARTICLE TOOLS

<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/95/2464.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.