

SCIENCE

VOL. 96

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1942

No. 2501

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

THE SCIENCE PRESS

Lancaster, Pennsylvania

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.

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

POSTPONEMENT OF THE NEW YORK MEETING

By Dr. F. R. MOULTON

PERMANENT SECRETARY

IN compliance with a direct request of the Office of Defense Transportation, an agency of the Federal Government, the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and of 44 of its affiliated and associated societies that was scheduled to be held in New York City beginning next December 28 has been postponed, by vote of the Executive Committee. The reason for the request from ODT is the excessive demands on railroads due to the war efforts of the country in general, and to the greatly added burdens due to recent military developments in particular.

Naturally the postponement of a meeting implies that it will be held at a later date. In the present case, however, no definite plans for the future have

been made or can be made until the acute transportation problems now existing have been at least partially solved. It is not possible to predict how soon the transportation conditions will improve; as soon as they are improved the ODT will not discourage the holding of scientific meetings.

Instead of drifting, and possibly grumbling, until the future of scientific meetings is clarified, scientists may well consider in all seriousness how their meetings might be improved. Presumably they can be improved in many ways, and if some of the ways of improving them can be discovered during this interval of uncertainty, the disappointments and irritations due to the postponement of the New York meeting will be forgotten.

Science

96 (2501)

Science **96** (2501), 501-522.

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