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The American Association for the Advancement of Science was founded in 1848 and incorporated in 1874. Its objects are to further the work of scientists, to facilitate cooperation among them, to improve the effectiveness of science in the promotion of human welfare, and to increase public understanding and appreciation of the importance and promise of the methods of science in human progress.

By Scientists for Scientists

The publisher and editor of *Science* are frequently asked: What are your objectives with respect to the magazine? This is a good question and one to which we address ourselves often. We begin by considering our situation.

Members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science include many of the best personnel in almost every field of science. Among them are about half the members of the National Academy of Sciences and some of the top scientists in industry. Elsewhere in the world, outside the United Kingdom, our circulation matches that of *Nature*. There are about 95,000 subscribers and members, 15 percent more than a year ago. More indicative is that *Science* is noticed and read as few journals are. Our authors receive many requests for reprints. Not long ago an editorial mentioned an article by Alvin Weinberg. As a result, he received 1000 pieces of mail. Cover photographs have also attracted attention: 18 different authors have requested permission to use in their books a single photograph that appeared less than a year ago.

About 5000 scientists each year help in matters of editorial content. They prepare much of the material, judge it, and suggest how it can be improved. The editorial staff has freedom enjoyed by comparatively few, for we are not subjected to pressures from advertisers or from the officers of AAAS. *Science* has a potential speed of publication matching that of the news weeklies. Thus, we have an important audience, adequate scientific and financial support, and freedom of selection.

Our goal is to meet the needs of our readers, most of whom are individuals of broad interests who wish to be informed of notable developments outside their special fields. We attempt to do this by a number of mechanisms. First, there are announcements of new findings, in the reports section. These cover part, but only a fraction, of important developments. Through consultation with hundreds of leading scientists, however, we become aware of significant topics and then solicit articles to cover much of what otherwise might be missed. This effort is supplemented by publication of meeting reports and book reviews.

News of government has been of growing significance to many scientists. To meet the need, *Science* has the full-time services of three of the best reporters in Washington. They have opportunity to do the research necessary for thoughtful stories. Their material is not censored or arbitrarily edited.

Another function of *Science*, only partially developed, is that of serving as a means of communication among its readers. If there is to be an effective scientific community, its members must speak to each other. This communication can take the form of articles by individuals, or of summaries of reports of important committees. Often our editorials are a means of such communication, for they frequently express views shared by many of our readers. So, too, are letters to the editor. This section has been expanding, and the material submitted has increased, while improving in quality. Our goal in this area is to create a forum that the best minds will consider desirable and appropriate.

In summary, we wish to make *Science* a magazine of excellence which, at the same time, fills many of the intellectual needs of our members and draws them into solid fraternal relationship.—P.H.A.