

SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 1903.

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THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NATURALISTS. HOMO SCIENTIFICUS AMERICANUS.*

MEMBERS of a society of naturalists, which includes psychology and anthropology in its scope, are familiar with the part played by rites and ceremonies in social evolution. Millions of holy shrines have been red with the blood of victims, and from countless altars the smell of burnt offerings has risen to heaven, in order that men should be united in closer bonds. We have not broken with the past; we meet together at our annual feast; the lot has fallen on your human sacrifice. Your social service is witnessed by the fact that you do not send him a scape-goat into the wilderness, but come to share his suffering.

The objects of our society, as I understand them, are not the increase of facts and the discussion of theories in each of the natural sciences. Our aim is rather to be

* Address of the president of the American Society of Naturalists, read at the annual dinner, Washington, D. C., January 1, 1903.