

SCIENCE

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<i>The American Association for the Advancement of Science:</i>	
<i>Evolutionary Faith and Modern Doubts:</i> PROFESSOR WILLIAM BATESON.....	55
<i>The Main Features of the Proceedings of the Council at the Toronto Meeting:</i> PROFESSOR BURTON E. LIVINGSTON.....	61
<i>Resolutions Adopted by the Council.....</i>	62
<i>Research in the Field of Agriculture:</i> PRESIDENT A. F. WOODS.....	64
<i>Scientific Events:</i>	
<i>Investigation of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning; World List of Scientific Periodicals; Emile Cartailhac and Oscar Montelius; Officers of the British Association; Officers of the American Association.....</i>	66
<i>Scientific Notes and News.....</i>	69
<i>University and Educational Notes.....</i>	71
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:</i>	
<i>Search for the Record of Robert Hanham Collyer:</i> DR. HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN. <i>The Protection of Microscopic Sections:</i> DR. GEORGE H. NEEDHAM. <i>The History of Science:</i> PHILIP B. McDONALD. <i>Ameboid Bodies Associated with Hippeastrum Mosaic:</i> L. O. KUNKEL. <i>The Tuning Fork:</i> CHARLES K. WEAD.....	72
<i>Quotations:</i>	
<i>“Key” Chemicals.....</i>	73
<i>Scientific Books:</i>	
<i>Penard on Flagellates:</i> DR. MAYNARD M. METCALF.....	74
<i>Special Articles:</i>	
<i>The Forms of Gas and Liquid Cavities in Gels, and their Interpretation by Surface Compression:</i> DR. ALAN W. C. MENZIES and RALPH BEEBE. <i>Unlike Interpretations of Fuller’s Scale in Determining Degree of Acidity:</i> DR. H. R. ROSEN.....	75
<i>The American Chemical Society:</i> DR. CHARLES L. PARSONS.....	77

EVOLUTIONARY FAITH AND MODERN DOUBTS¹

I VISIT Canada for the first time in delightful circumstances. After a period of dangerous isolation, intercourse between the centres of scientific development is once more beginning, and I am grateful to the American Association for this splendid opportunity of renewing friendship with my western colleagues in genetics, and of coming into even a temporary partnership in the great enterprise which they have carried through with such extraordinary success.

In all that relates to the theme which I am about to consider we have been passing through a period of amazing activity and fruitful research. Coming here after a week in close communion with the wonders of Columbia University, I may seem behind the times in asking you to devote an hour to the old topic of evolution. But though that subject is no longer in the forefront of debate, I believe it is never very far from the threshold of our minds, and it was with pleasure that I found it appearing in conspicuous places in several parts of the program of this meeting.

Standing before the American Association, it is not unfit that I should begin with a personal reminiscence. In 1883 I first came to the United States to study the development of *Balanoglossus* at the Johns Hopkins summer laboratory, then at Hampton, Va. This creature had lately been found there in an easily accessible place. With a magnanimity, that on looking back I realize was superb, Professor W. K. Brooks had given me permission to investigate it, thereby handing over to a young stranger one of the prizes which in this age

¹ Delivered before the American Association for the Advancement of Science on Wednesday evening, December 28, in the Convocation Hall of the University of Toronto.

Science

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