

# SCIENCE

VOL. LVIII

DECEMBER 28, 1923

No. 1513

## A RETROSPECT<sup>1</sup>

### CONTENTS

<i>The American Association for the Advancement of Science: A Retrospect:</i> PROFESSOR J. PLAYFAIR MCMURRICH .....	521
<i>The Andes in Northern Peru:</i> PROFESSOR C. H. EIGENMANN .....	532
<i>Scientific Events:</i> <i>National Parks; National Research Fellowships in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics; Dinner in honor of Dr. Bohr; The Engineers' Testimonial Dinner to Dean Cooley; The Medalists of the Royal Society</i> .....	532
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i> .....	535
<i>University and Educational Notes</i> .....	536
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:</i> <i>On the Model of the Helium Atom:</i> DR. RALPH DE LAER KRONIG. <i>Plant Lice and Light Ex- posure:</i> S. MARCOVITCH. <i>The Santa Barbara Skull:</i> E. H. SELLARDS .....	537
<i>Scientific Books:</i> <i>Birkhoff's Relativity and Modern Physics:</i> PRO- FESSOR L. P. EISENHART .....	539
<i>Special Articles:</i> <i>Some Effects of Insulin and Glucokinin on Maize Seedlings:</i> DR. M. M. ELLIS and W. H. EYSTER. <i>"Vitamin A" Deficiency in Poultry:</i> DR. J. R. BEACH .....	541
<i>Science News</i> .....	x

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.

New York City: Grand Central Terminal.

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.

Entered as second-class matter July 18, 1923, at the Post Office at Lancaster, Pa., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

It is the custom of our association that the annual presidential address should be delivered, not by the actual president, who assumed the responsibilities and honors of his office at the close of the last meeting a year ago, but by his predecessor, who by courtesy is termed the "retiring president" although as a matter of fact he is not "retiring" but "retired." He has to the best of his ability sustained the responsibilities of the presidency and has been relieved of them, he has enjoyed the honor of the position and has retired beyond the range of the spot-light only to be dragged into it once more with even greater responsibilities than before. Professor Dana in his presidential address of nearly seventy years ago describes this situation more eloquently than I can. "In most offices," he said, "the duties terminate with the office, and the thing of the past, the ex-officer, is to the present an unknown quantity. But it is not so with your president. Science . . . sternly drags forward its reluctant presidents to their hardest trial when they have ceased to be, to a judgment after death severer than that of Rhadamanthus." And Professor Asa Gray nearly twenty years later naturally and happily employing a botanical metaphor, compared the president to a biennial plant: "He flourishes for the year in which he comes into existence and performs his appropriate functions as a presiding officer. When the second year comes round, he is expected to blossom out in an address and disappear."

This arrangement has its advantages in that it affords what should be ample time for the preparation of such an address as the occasion and the position demands; for a speaker from this rostrum is confronted with the responsibility of speaking as one having authority, as a representative of science and while he may not have the ability to duly mix "reason with pleasure and wisdom with wit," he may be expected to set forth with surety and clarity the faith that is in him as to the achievements and progress of science, or at least of that department of science which he cultivates. Few can see this responsibility approach with cool, calm composure and assurance and alas! the very fact that one has apparently ample time for the preparation of one's pronouncements

<sup>1</sup> Address of the president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Seventy-fifth Annual Meeting, Cincinnati, 1923.

# Science

**58 (1513)**

*Science* **58** (1513), 521-542.

**ARTICLE TOOLS**

<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/58/1513.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. The title *Science* is a registered trademark of AAAS.

Copyright © 1923 The Authors, some rights reserved; exclusive licensee American Association for the Advancement of Science. No claim to original U.S. Government Works.