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THE PERMANENT SECRETARY'S REPORT
ON THE FIFTH WASHINGTON MEETING

GENERAL FEATURES

The fifth Washington meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science closed on Saturday, January 3rd. This was the seventy-ninth meeting of the association and the annual meeting for the association year 1924-25. Meeting with the association at Washington were 35 associated societies, of which number 24 are officially affiliated, and also 11 other societies that met with the association by invitation. All the fifteen sections of the association itself were well represented in the programs.

The meeting was by far the largest in the history of the association and it excelled in many other ways. It is probably safe to assert that it was the largest gathering of all kinds of scientists in the history of the whole world. The total registration was 4,206. The largest registration record for earlier meetings was 2,413 (the last quadrennial meeting, at Chicago, 1920-21), and the registration for the meeting just ended was consequently 74 per cent. larger than the previous maximum record. The registration record for the fifth Washington meeting is probably not nearly complete, nor is it presumably as complete as are the records for the preceding meetings mentioned above. It is safe to estimate that the actual attendance was over 4,700. The Washington registration is shown in column 3 of Table 2.

A full week was fortunately available for this meeting. The first session of the executive committee of the association council and the secretaries' conference were held on Sunday, December 28th, a large number of societies held regular sessions on the following Monday and numerous sessions occurred every day throughout the week, the meeting not really closing till Saturday afternoon. Altogether, there were 252 sessions for the reading of papers and addresses. These sessions were distributed in the week as shown in second line of Table 1, which also presents a variety of comparative data on the fourth Washington meeting (December, 1911) and on the last five annual meetings. The first column gives the registration figures, the second the total membership at the close of each meeting, the third the total number of sessions in each meeting and the fourth the total number of

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