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GENERAL REPORTS OF THE FIFTH NEW YORK MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE AND ASSOCIATED SOCIETIES

GENERAL FEATURES

CONVOCATION week of 1928-29 will long be remembered for the great New York meeting of the American Association and associated organizations. This was the eighty-fifth meeting of the association and the fifth meeting held in New York. The preliminary announcement of this meeting appeared in SCIENCE for November 30, 1928. It contains much interesting information about the New York arrangements, which were carried out as there announced, with but very few minor changes. The sessions of the association and the associated societies were very satisfactorily accommodated in the buildings of Columbia University, the American Museum of Natural History, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the United Engineering Societies and the American Geographical Society.

The president for this meeting was Professor Henry Fairfield Osborn, president of the American Museum of Natural History. Professor Osborn's name is well known to all who are interested in science both in America and abroad. His many years of scientific work have been devoted to research and interpretation in the fields of zoology and paleontology. His indefatigable work as an educator and organizer is represented by the great American Museum of Natural History as it stands to-day, an example of the finest and most progressive of public museums. Many of the generally attractive features of the eighty-fifth meeting were due to President Osborn's enthusiastic interest and to his loyal service to the association.

The retiring president for the fifth New York meeting was Dr. Arthur A. Noyes, director of the Gates Chemical Laboratory of the California Institute of Technology, eminent leader in chemical research and chemical teaching and in the organization of American scientific research in general. Dr. Noyes's retiring presidential address, on "The Story of the Chemical Elements," was one of the most

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valuable of the many valuable reviews of present knowledge that were presented at this meeting.

Every four years the annual meeting of the American Association is exceptionally large and comprehensive and the meeting here reported was one of these larger meetings, which are held in rotation at New York, Chicago and Washington. Twelve years intervened between the fourth New York meeting and the fifth New York meeting and it will be twelve years before the association will again meet in the American metropolis. This eighty-fifth meeting was the greatest and most successful meeting in the history of the association. The fifteen sections were all represented on the program and forty-five independent organizations of science workers in all lines joined with the association on this occasion. The names of these organizations have been given in the preliminary announcement referred to above, and they will appear in the reports on the New York sessions of sections and societies, in the issue of SCIENCE for February 1.

ATTENDANCE, SESSIONS AND PAPERS

Thirty-nine hundred and thirty-five persons were actually registered at the association's registration offices as in attendance at the fifth New York meeting. Records of registration from several of the societies that failed to cooperate with the general organization in regard to registration make it clear that, with full cooperation of all the organizations that met with the association at this meeting, the official registration would have exceeded 4,800. It is certain that between five and six thousand individuals attended one or more of the numerous sessions. It is unfortunate that we have not yet hit upon any uniformly feasible plan for securing an accurate record of all who receive benefit from these great annual meetings.

The residence distribution of those who registered at the association offices is shown by the following list.

Altogether, about two hundred and fifty scientific sessions were held at this meeting and about 2,200 papers and addresses were delivered, by about 1,900 different individuals.

As usual, there were a large number of luncheons, dinners and smokers, all exceptionally well attended.

MEETING PLACES AND FACILITIES

The New York meeting was exceptionally well accommodated in respect to session rooms and facilities. Most of the sessions of the sections and societies were held in the buildings of Columbia University, the excellent allotment of rooms being due to great personal sacrifice of time and thought on the part of Dean George B. Pegram, of the university, general chairman of the association's New York committees

Registration at New York by States and Provinces

Alabama	15	Mississippi	5
Alaska	1	Missouri	47
Arizona	10	Montana	5
Arkansas	6	Nebraska	10
Bermuda	1	Nevada	3
California	35	New Hampshire	44
Chile	1	New Jersey	229
China	3	New Mexico	4
Colorado	15	New York	546
Connecticut	132	N. Y. City	547
Delaware	25	North Carolina	44
District of Columbia	255	North Dakota	1
England	7	Nova Scotia	2
Florida	9	Ohio	190
France	2	Oklahoma	14
Georgia	18	Ontario	44
Germany	5	Oregon	8
Haiti	1	Pennsylvania	330
Hawaii	3	Philippines	1
Idaho	2	Porto Rico	2
Illinois	144	Quebec	18
India	1	Rhode Island	35
Indiana	45	Russia	3
Iowa	34	South Carolina	19
Italy	1	South Dakota	4
Jamaica	1	Switzerland	2
Japan	1	Tennessee	22
Kansas	29	Texas	17
Kentucky	12	Utah	4
Louisiana	8	Vermont	24
Maine	50	Virginia	66
Manitoba	4	Washington	5
Maryland	124	West Virginia	29
Massachusetts	343	Wisconsin	63
Mexico	2	Wyoming	3
Michigan	127	Miscellaneous	8
Minnesota	65	Total	3,935

and chairman of the special committee on meeting places, who was ably and heartily aided in this very important feature of the preparations by the other members of the special committee. In accordance with a general plan followed whenever possible, practically all the biological sessions were housed together, in Teachers College, and the biological messenger service was in successful operation, by which those attending any session were kept informed as to the progress of other simultaneous programs. To Professor Maurice A. Bigelow, of Teachers College, the biologists were greatly indebted for many excellent features of the smoothly running arrangements by which such a large number of organizations were enabled to hold their sessions so conveniently to one another. The association and the organizations that met at Columbia are very grateful to the university and to many of its members.

The geological societies met at the American Museum of Natural History, which furnished facilities

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GENERAL FEATURES

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