

# SCIENCE

VOL. LXXII

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 1930

No. 1861

<i>Science and History—A Short Contribution to Philosophy</i> : E. C. ANDREWS .....	205	<i>Scientific Apparatus and Laboratory Methods</i> :	
<i>Some Scientific Instrument Makers of the Eighteenth Century</i> : ROBERT S. WHIPPLE .....	208	<i>Analysis of Vowels</i> : I. C. YOUNG and R. H. STETSON. <i>An Electromagnetic Pump</i> : DR. ROBERT LIVINGSTON .....	223
<i>Scientific Events</i> :		<i>Special Articles</i> :	
<i>The International Veterinary Congress; Introduction into the United States of Plants Resistant to Disease; The National Institute of Health; The Cincinnati Meeting of the American Chemical Society</i> .....	213	<i>On the Critical Temperature of Serum: Depolarization Factor and Hydration of Serum Molecules</i> : P. LECOMTE DU NOÛY. <i>Electromagnetic Radiation and the Properties of the Electron</i> : DR. R. D. KLEEMAN. <i>Interpretations of the Curve of Normal Growth</i> : DR. FEDERICK A. DAVIDSON .....	224
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i> .....	215	<i>Science News</i> .....	x
<i>Discussion</i> :			
<i>Are Planets Rare?</i> PROFESSOR ARTHUR H. COMPTON. <i>Curiosities of Scientific Names</i> : DR. G. M. ALLEN and DR. T. BARBOUR. <i>Priority in Family, Order and Higher Group Names</i> : PROFESSOR HORACE ELMER WOOD, 2nd. <i>The Origin of Symphoricarpus</i> : DR. J. BURTT DAVY. <i>Entropy and Organization</i> : DR. DAVID L. WATSON .....	219		
<i>Special Correspondence</i> :			
<i>Research Work of the Michigan College of Mining and Technology</i> : A CORRESPONDENT .....	222		

SCIENCE: A Weekly Journal devoted to the Advancement of Science, edited by J. McKEEN CATTELL and published every Friday by

## THE SCIENCE PRESS

New York City: Grand Central Terminal

Lancaster, Pa.

Garrison, N. Y.

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.

## SCIENCE AND HISTORY: A SHORT CONTRIBUTION TO PHILOSOPHY<sup>1</sup>

By E. C. ANDREWS

GOVERNMENT GEOLOGIST OF NEW SOUTH WALES

If the ordinary member of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science were questioned concerning the main objects of the association, he or she would naturally reply that the title is self-explanatory, implying, on the one hand, coordination and correlation of scientific work by co-operation, and, on the other hand, the promotion of harmonious social relations both between scientific workers themselves and between them and the general public. The question thus naturally arises as to the scope of the association's activities and the best means of securing the desired cooperation. A glance at the names of the sections reveals a range of subjects for

discussion varying from mathematics, physics, chemistry, geology and biology, to economics, medical science, social science, education, psychology and philosophy. Whether we consider philosophy in its general meaning as inclusive of psychology, epistemology, ontology, logic, esthetics and ethics, or in its narrower sense as synonymous with metaphysics, it is evident that the subjects considered are so diverse as to imply the possession either of decided versatility or of a broad grasp of scientific method on the part of one who would attempt the correlation of these subjects. Coherence of parts (sections), at least, is necessary, however, and in view of the present centrifugal movement towards specialization with its resultant divergency of interests and tendency to misunderstanding between the workers in the peripheral excrescences

<sup>1</sup> Abstract of the address of the president of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science, Brisbane, 1930.

# Science

**72 (1861)**

*Science* **72** (1861), x-226.

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