

SCIENCE

VOL. 86

FRIDAY, JULY 30, 1937

No. 2222

<i>The Engineer and His Relation to Government</i> : DR. VANNEVAR BUSH	87	<i>Glucuronic Acid</i> : DR. WALTHER F. GOEBEL. <i>On the Mechanism of the Action of Digitalis Glucosides on Muscle</i> : DR. MCKEEN CATTELL and HELEN GOODELL	104
<i>The Ultracentrifugal Purification and Study of Macromolecular Proteins</i> : DR. RALPH W. G. WYCKOFF	92	<i>Scientific Apparatus and Laboratory Methods</i> : <i>Uniform Tissue Sections for Warburg Technique</i> : JOHN O. THOMAS and FLOYD DE EDS. <i>Ammonium Fluoride Fusion: A Rapid Means of Determining Potassium in Soils</i> : R. B. DEEMER, JAMES B. MARTIN and PAUL R. DAWSON	107
<i>Scientific Events</i> : <i>Scientific Awards in China; Archeological Projects; A Federal Cancer Research Institute; The Treub Foundation of Buitenzorg, Java; Officers of the National Research Council; Recent Deaths and Memorials</i>	95	<i>Science News</i>	6
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i>	97		
<i>Discussion</i> : <i>Microclimatic Studies in Oklahoma and Ohio</i> : C. W. THORNTHWAITTE. <i>Chromosome Alterations by Centrifuging</i> : DONTCHO KOSTOFF. <i>A Six-chromosome Ascaris in Chinese Horses</i> : JU-CHI LI. <i>In Re Hypothecate</i> : L. A. HAWKINS; T. J. MOSLEY	100		
<i>Societies and Meetings</i> : <i>The American Geophysical Union</i> : JNO. A. FLEMING	102		
<i>Special Articles</i> : <i>Determination of Ultra-violet Light Absorption by Certain Bacteriophages</i> : DRS. LESLIE A. SANDHOLZER, MARVIN M. MANN and GEORGE PACKER BERRY. <i>The Chemical Constitution of Benzoyl</i>			

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.

THE ENGINEER AND HIS RELATION TO GOVERNMENT¹

353-0304D
031

By Dr. VANNEVAR BUSH

VICE-PRESIDENT AND DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING OF THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

REAL attention is being given to the professional advancement and the technical interests of the profession. We have an enormously complex system of organization of scientists and engineers in this country, and yet no effective single central organization representing all engineers and expressing their viewpoint on public questions. We have an elaborate mechanism for bringing advice to bear on scientific and engineering problems as they arise in government, and this mechanism is not utilized to the full.

What is to be done about it? Certainly no solution lies in forming one more society to join the throng. Integration is indicated; and since societies now exist

¹ Concluding part of an address delivered at an evening session of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, summer convention, Milwaukee, Wis., June 22, 1937.

for all the express purposes we have considered, a duplication of effort by a newcomer would simply complicate matters. Rather, the existing mechanism should be simplified and strengthened.

Would it be of aid if the great national organizations, such as the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, were to take official and definite positions on public questions involving engineering? I do not think this is their proper function, for reasons I will discuss. This is being done in some such organizations, and the effect so far has not been especially helpful. It is another thing entirely for the American Institute of Electrical Engineers to provide a forum for the frank discussion of important questions by men of all shades of opinion. In this I believe it has a duty to perform. So far it has not been done, and

Science

86 (2222)

Science **86** (2222), 6-108.

ARTICLE TOOLS

<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/86/2222.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. 2017 © The Authors, some rights reserved; exclusive licensee American Association for the Advancement of Science. No claim to original U.S. Government Works. The title *Science* is a registered trademark of AAAS.