

# SCIENCE

VOL. 89

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1939

No. 2316

## The National Academy of Sciences:

*History in the Archives of the Royal Society:* SIR WILLIAM BRAGG ..... 445

## Scientific Events:

*The Zoological Society of London; The Transfer of Difficult Alpine Plants made at Washington Arboretum; Developments in Engineering at Cornell University; The Annual Report of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden; Symposium on the Cell and Proto-plasm; The American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Recent Deaths and Memorials* ..... 453

*Scientific Notes and News* ..... 457

## Discussion:

*The Luminescence of Adhesive Tape:* PROFESSOR E. NEWTON HARVEY. *Consumption of Teosinte Seed by Birds in Guatemala:* RAYMOND STADELMAN. *Mull Soil under Spruce:* THE LATE DR. ARTHUR PAUL JACOT. *Graptolites from Highgate, Vermont:* PROFESSOR C. E. GORDON ..... 460

## Societies and Meetings:

*Joint Symposium of the American Chemical Society, the University of Wisconsin and the American Association for the Advancement of Science:* DR. HAROLD C. UREY ..... 463

## Special Articles:

*The Synthesis of a Polysaccharide from Glucose-1-Phosphate in Muscle Extract:* DR. CARL F. CORI, GERHARD SCHMIDT and DR. GERTY T. CORI. *The Effect of Ultra-Violet Light on Built-up Multi-layers:* VINCENT J. SCHAEFER ..... 464

## Scientific Apparatus and Laboratory Methods:

*A Method for Estimating the Degree of Mineralization of Bones from Tracings of Roentgenograms:* PAULINE BERRY MACK and OTHERS. *A Thermo-regulator and Relay Assembly:* DONALD GREIFF ..... 467

*Science News* ..... 10

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.

## HISTORY IN THE ARCHIVES OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY<sup>1</sup>

By Sir WILLIAM BRAGG

DIRECTOR OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN; PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY, LONDON

THE archives of the Royal Society are rich in materials that illustrate various aspects of the history of the last three centuries. They have, of course, a special character, since they refer almost entirely to the matters in which the society has concerned itself, grouped under the general title of "The Improvement of Natural Knowledge." But these matters have increased in importance with the passing years and are now a subject of the first concern of the whole world. The effect of science upon social relations and social conditions has become very great, and the gains are obvious. Yet science does not appear to be in all cases beneficent. It has become a matter of anxious consideration whether or no the increase in the knowledge of nature must necessarily bring evil as well as good. Is there a fault to be remedied, and if so where does the fault

lie? These questions have roused a debate which is even now in progress, and some hard thinking is being given to them.

It is of some help, I think, to consider the steps by which the present position has been reached, and the Royal Society archives may be used to provide the necessary illustrations. For that reason I hope that you will find it of some interest if, with that object in view, I refer to some of the papers and letters which they contain.

A few "virtuosi," to use the contemporary phrase, who met for discussion and experiment in the middle years of the seventeenth century were weary of the miseries of the civil war, and were glad to turn their thoughts to the consideration of natural phenomena over which the passions of men had no influence. Experimental science had long tempted thoughtful minds, and now the first founders of the Royal Society threw

<sup>1</sup> Pilgrim Trust Lecture, delivered before the National Academy of Sciences, April 24, 1939.

# Science

**89 (2316)**

*Science* **89** (2316), 445-468.

**ARTICLE TOOLS**

<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/89/2316.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 © 1939 The Authors, some rights reserved; exclusive licensee American Association for the Advancement of Science. No claim to original U.S. Government Works.