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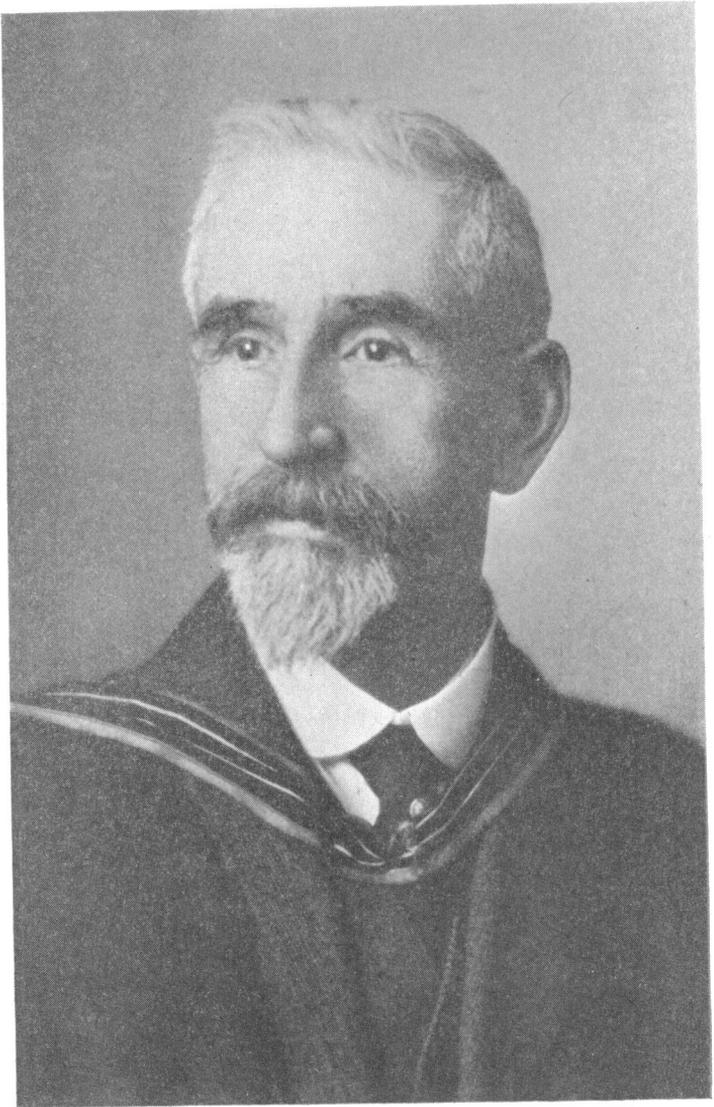
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DR. J. PLAYFAIR McMURRICH

Professor of Anatomy in the University of Toronto, President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

THE PROGRESS OF SCIENCE¹

THE TORONTO MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

At the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and of the associated scientific societies held at Toronto during Christmas week, the total registration was 1,832, and the number of papers and addresses presented before forty sections of the association and associated societies numbered about 900. The meeting was much larger than had been anticipated, partly through the participation of the citizens of Toronto and Ontario in accordance with the precedent set by the British Association. The number in attendance from the United States was 867. The arrangements made by the University of Toronto and the Royal Canadian Institute for scientific sessions and for the enjoyment of the visiting members were unusually complete. About 800 were provided with rooms and meals in the dormitories and halls of the university, and many of the dinners and social events were held on the university grounds.

The meeting of the scientific men of North America was both pleasant and useful and will lead to their closer cooperation for the advancement of science. Both this year and last a number of leading Canadian men of science were elected chairmen of the sections, and this year, for the first time since Sir William Dawson held the office in 1882, a Canadian was elected to the presidency. In accordance with the usual sequence of alternating between the

exact and natural sciences, and from a number of distinguished men who were proposed, Dr. J. Playfair McMurrich, professor of anatomy in the University of Toronto, was elected. Dr. McMurrich's scientific research and publications have not been confined to human anatomy, but include comparative morphology, the factors of evolution and the history of science. Born and educated at Toronto, he has had wide experience in the universities of the United States, having received his doctorate of philosophy and taught at the Johns Hopkins University, and having held chairs successively at Clark, Haverford, Cincinnati and Michigan, before accepting the professorship of anatomy at Toronto in 1907. Dr. McMurrich will preside at the meeting to be held next year at Boston, and will give his address at the meeting to be held the following year at Cincinnati.

The American Association holds its larger convocation week meetings once in four years, successively in New York, Chicago and Washington. It is planned that all the scientific workers of the country shall unite in these meetings and it is hoped that they will ultimately be joined by scholars who carry forward research in subjects not usually included under the natural and exact sciences. The meetings at the intervening two-year periods, as the one next year at Boston, are intended to bring together most of the associated societies. On the intervening alternate years, many of the special societies find it an advantage to meet separately in smaller university towns, where the personal contacts are closer. Thus this year the important groups of sciences devoted to anatomy, physiology, biological chemistry,

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DR. WILLIAM BATESON, F.R.S.

Director of the John Innes Horticultural Institution, Merton, London

pharmacology and experimental pathology met at Yale University. The geologists, including the paleontologists and meteorologists, met at Amherst, an early center of geological science in America, whose traditions have for fifty years been carried forward by Professor B. K. Emerson, to whom a presentation was made. The geographers met at Washington, the astronomers at Swarthmore Col-

lege, the anthropologists at the Brooklyn Institute and the psychologists at Princeton.

This somewhat wide scattering of the societies associated with the association made the success of the Toronto meeting the more notable. It has indeed often been the case that meetings more remote from the familiar centers have been especially enjoyable. Toronto is near the



SIR ROBERT FALCONER
President of the University of Toronto

northern limit of scientific activity, but it is convenient of access from the east and west. The University of Toronto and the city unite some of the characteristics of older and newer civilizations, and the meeting had features of the British Association.

Among them was the conferring of honorary degrees at a special convocation of the University of Toronto by Sir Robert Falconer, president of the university, on the presidents of the association for last year and this and on the guest from England, whose official appearances added much to the interest of the meeting.

The address by the retiring president, Dr. L. O. Howard, chief of the Bureau of Entomology of the United States Department of Agriculture, reviewed the war on insects, in which he himself has been a field marshal. Dr. Howard also reviewed preceding presidential addresses before the British and American Associations, with which he has had opportunity to become especially familiar in the course of the eighteen years during which he has been associated with a long line of distinguished men in his service as permanent secretary of the association.

Preceding Dr. Howard's address,

Sir Robert Falconer welcomed the association in admirable terms, and Professor E. H. Moore, of the University of Chicago, responded with felicity for the association. At the second general meeting, Dr. William Bateson, director of the John Innes Horticultural Institution at Merton, London, and present as the guest of the American Association and of the American Society of Zoologists, gave an address on "Evolutionary Faith and Modern Doubt," in which he argued that while the fact of evolution is not in question, the problems of the origin of species are still unsolved. Dr. Bateson paid a tribute to the "Stars that have arisen in the West," by whose work solutions have been found for many of the difficult problems of genetics, including the direct association of the chromosomes with the developing organism.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION CONCERNING THE PUBLIC WELFARE

The National Academy of Sciences is by law the scientific adviser of the government, but the American Association and the associated scientific societies have equal responsibility, representing as they do the consensus of opinion of scientific men. It may be hoped that in the future the council of the association, composed largely of delegates from the associated national societies, may take an active part in enlightening public opinion and in guiding legislation on problems concerned with the advancement of science and its applications to the public welfare. At Toronto several resolutions looking in this direction were adopted by the council.

It put on record its opposition to any action by which the Forest Service or the National Forests of the United States or of Alaska would be removed from the jurisdiction of

the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The suspension of scientific periodicals issued by the government, such as the *Journal of Agricultural Research*, the *Experiment Station Record* and the *Monthly Weather Review*, was condemned. The introduction of non-native plants and animals into the national parks and all other unessential interference with natural conditions was opposed. A resolution declared that the American Association "recognizes the need and timeliness of fundamental research on the scientific principles which must underlie the formation, standardization and introduction of an international auxiliary language."

Noting that it had already affirmed its belief in the desirability of the adoption of the metric system by the United States, the council urged consideration by Congress of the metric bills before it.

The United States Commissioner of Fisheries having presented his resignation, the council went on record as emphasizing the prime importance of securing a man who possesses the special experience and scientific knowledge of the field, combined with the necessary administrative ability for discharging the duties of the position.

SCIENTIFIC ITEMS

WE record with regret the death of Henry Turner Eddy, professor emeritus of mathematics and mechanics in the University of Minnesota and dean emeritus of the graduate school; of Dr. Howard B. Cross, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, of yellow fever while studying that disease at Vera Cruz; of Henrietta Swan Jewett, of the Harvard College Observatory; of Earl Jerome Grimes, associate professor of biology at the College of William and Mary, and of Max Verworn, professor of physiology at the University of Bonn.