

# SCIENCE

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THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.  
ITHACA, N. Y., JUNE 28 TO JULY 3, 1906.

## REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY.

THE fifty-sixth meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science was held at Ithaca, New York, June 28–July 3, 1906. This meeting was peculiar in being an extra meeting in the summer, the winter meeting at New Orleans having been held only six months before, and a winter meeting being planned for New York six months later. As a consequence of the fact that it was an extra meeting, there were no presidential addresses, no election of officers, except to fill vacancies, and there was but little action of any kind taken by the council.

The registered attendance of the association members was 232, and 94 members of the American Chemical Society were known to be present who were not registered as members of the association, making a clearly ascertained total attendance of 326. Other information, derived from the registration of four affiliated societies, indicates that the total attendance was about 400. As to attendance, the meeting was intermediate between the two meetings next preceding, namely, at New Orleans and at Philadelphia.

The following table shows the registered attendance by sections, and the affiliated societies which met at Ithaca:

Section A, 1. (No meeting of section was held.)

Section B, 50. American Physical Society.

Section C, 45. American Chemical Society and the New York Chapter of the Society for Chemical Industry.

Section D, 23. Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education.

Section E, 14.

Section F, 42. American Microscopical Society.

Section G, 30.

Section H, 6. (No meeting of the section was held.)

Section I, 14.

Section K, 3. (No meeting of the section was held.)

Four persons registered indicated no preference as to section.

Section B and the American Physical Society had a joint program of 29 papers, in which no distinction was made between the papers furnished by the two organizations, the papers being arranged according to topics.

Section C held no formal meeting. Its secretary aided the representatives of the American Chemical Society in preparing the program of their Ithaca meeting, and in making preparations for a joint meeting in New York. This society had a program of more than 80 papers, and its meetings were divided into sections.

The chemists constituted about one third of the total attendance at Ithaca. The chemists and physicists together constituted about one half of the total attendance.

It is interesting to note further that of the 231 members of the association registered, about one half, or 121 to be exact, are members of the affiliated societies meeting at this time and place.

The geographical distribution of the members in attendance can be computed only for the 231 registered members of the association; of these, 94 come from New York State; 20 from Massachusetts; 17 from Pennsylvania; 16 from the District

of Columbia; 12 from Ohio; 10 from Illinois; 7 from Michigan; 5 from Indiana; 5 from New Jersey; 4 from Canada, Kentucky and California; 3 from New Hampshire, Minnesota, Missouri, Connecticut and Virginia; 2 from Iowa, Nebraska and Maryland; and 1 each from Tennessee, North Carolina, Alabama, South Carolina, Mississippi, Vermont, Rhode Island, Wisconsin and Kansas.

The meetings of Section D were held on Friday and Saturday. They were followed by those of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education in the same room on Monday and Tuesday, with an attendance about 50 per cent. greater than that of Section D.

Section E held two sessions on one day for the reading of papers, and devoted the remaining three days to excursions to points of interest from a geological point of view, near the northern end of Cayuga Lake, near the southern end of Cayuga Lake and at Enfield Glen.

Section F and the American Microscopical Society had a joint program.

Section G spent two and a half days in excursions to points of special interest from the botanical point of view, including a visit to Enfield Gorge. One day was spent in informal discussion of matters observed on the excursions. The Fern Chapter and the Society for Horticultural Science met at Ithaca just before the meeting of the association.

The attendance at the meetings of Section I was 25 to 40, considerably in excess of the registered number of members of that section (14). Nineteen papers were presented.

The relations between sections and affiliated societies were entirely harmonious in every case, the officers cooperating cordially in a common cause.

Cornell University placed its buildings at the disposal of the association, and each

day furnished a mid-day lunch to the members. An appropriate resolution of thanks was adopted.

The following general events added greatly to the meeting:

1. The informal smoker at the Town and Gown Club on Thursday evening.

2. The formal opening and dedication of Rockefeller Hall, the magnificent new Physical Laboratory of Cornell University, on Friday afternoon, with short addresses by President J. G. Schurman, Professor E. L. Nichols, Dr. Elihu Thomson, Dr. W. H. Welch (the president of the association) and a letter from Professor W. A. Anthony, read by Professor E. Merritt.

3. An address on Saturday evening by Professor Henry S. Carhart, of the University of Michigan, on 'The South African Meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science,' illustrated by a most excellent series of lantern slides.

4. A reception on Monday afternoon by Dr. and Mrs. Andrew D. White at their residence on East Avenue.

5. A public address on the recent California earthquake by Professor J. C. Branner, vice-president of Stanford University, given under the auspices of the local chapter of Sigma Xi in commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the society. This was immediately followed by a Sigma Xi banquet, which was largely attended.

There were during the meeting, both within and outside of the council, various discussions of the relations of the association and of the affiliated societies. The only resolutions passed by the council bearing directly upon this matter follow:

*Resolved*, That the secretary of each section be required to prepare for the New York meeting a program of general interest for at least one session of his section.

*Resolved*, That the secretaries of the sections be requested to confer with each

other, and with the secretaries of affiliated societies, regarding the relation of programs for the New York meeting, and

Further, That the sectional committees be empowered to turn over technical papers to the technical societies, and

On motion, the permanent secretary was instructed to prepare a list of members of the association who belong to the affiliated societies accepted as possessing proper qualifications, and to submit these names to the council at the New York meeting, with the recommendation that they be elected as fellows.

The social features of the meeting were unusually pleasant; and, although there was no central rallying point for all the scientific people in attendance, except the luncheon place at 1 o'clock, the opportunities for social converse were many.

The Ithaca meeting will be remembered by those who attended it as one of moderate size, thoroughly successful as to number and quality of papers presented, characterized throughout by harmonious relations, especially notable for pleasant and profitable excursions, and given a tone of peculiar charm by scenic surroundings unrivaled by those of any other college campus in the United States.

The addresses made at the opening general session in Barnes Hall on Friday, June 28, are appended to this report.

JOHN F. HAYFORD,  
*General Secretary.*

The first general session of the association was held in Barnes Hall, Cornell University, at 10 o'clock on Friday morning, June 29, 1906. The president of the association, Dr. William H. Welch, after calling the meeting to order, introduced Dr. J. G. Schurman, president of Cornell University, who delivered the following address of welcome:

*Ladies and Gentlemen:* I have very