

## WASHINGTON TO BE MAGNET FOR SCIENTISTS NEW YEAR'S WEEK

Sixty-four scientific organizations, attracting some 3000 scientists, will meet in Washington during New Year's week, from Dec. 29 to Jan. 3.

Over a thousand scientific papers will be presented on subjects ranging from astronomy to zoology. It will be the largest gathering of its kind ever held, according to officials of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which forms a nucleus around which the other scientific organizations gather.

Added interest in the meetings has been created by the renewal of a \$1000 prize offered by an anonymous member as a reward for the most important scientific paper to be read at the meetings. The prize was awarded last year for the first time to Prof. L. E. Dickson of the University of Chicago.

This meeting, the seventy-ninth of the Association, will be the fifth one held in Washington. Earlier Washington meetings were held in April, 1854, August, 1891, December, 1902 and December, 1911. Records of the 1854 meeting state that "the members of the Association were elegantly entertained on different evenings by Franklin Pierce, President of the United States, and Jefferson Davis, Secretary of War." Of the 1004 members of the Association, 168 were in attendance; and 110 papers were read.

The sections of the American Association now number fifteen, ranging from Mathematics in Section A to Educational Science in Section Q. Attendance at the general meetings and the meetings of the various sections, however, is not limited to members of the Association. The meetings are all open to the public, and the American Association is unique among American scientific societies in that laymen, interested but not technically qualified in science, can become full members.

President Coolidge will probably address one of the general meetings, which the entire association attends. On Monday evening, Dec. 29, Dr. Charles D. Walcott, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, and retiring president of the American Association, will speak on "Science and Service". On Tuesday evening there will be a meeting of the Society of Sigma Xi, the science honor fraternity, which will be addressed by Dr. F. Russell, general director of the International Health Board, on "War on Diseases", with special reference to malaria and yellow fever. On Thursday evening the American scientists will have an opportunity to see how their British co-workers conduct their meetings, for motion pictures will be shown of this summer's meeting of the British Association at Toronto, with a talk by Dr. Edwin E. Slosson of Science Service.

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TABLOID BOOK REVIEW

**MAN BEFORE HISTORY:** A Short account of Prehistoric Times, By Mary E. Boyle. Boston, Little Brown and Company, 1924. 135 Pages. Price \$1.50.

Although primarily designed for young readers, this little book should serve grown-ups as an excellent introduction to the European cave man. The story of the various finds and the carefully considered conclusions which have been drawn from them are told in a clear and simple fashion and illustrated by copies from the cave man's original paintings.

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