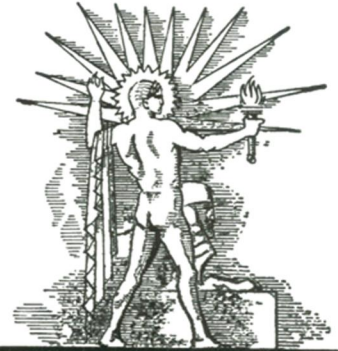


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# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF CURRENT SCIENCE •



NOVEMBER 18, 1933

“Rosetta Stone” of Prehistoric America

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SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

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## DO YOU KNOW?

The city of Samarra on the Tigris River was built, enlarged, and abandoned within 47 years in the ninth century A.D.

Nobel's invention of dynamite cheapened iron, lead, copper and zinc so that industry began to use them to new advantage.

The average blood pressure of the inhabitants of Guatemala is found to be notably lower than that of North Americans.

Sugar is sugar to most people, but a journal of the food industries points out that there are 15 grades of brown sugar alone.

When the Spaniards were exploring the southern United States, they sometimes traded coats of mail to appreciative Indians who called these "iron shirts."

The world's fastest passenger elevators have been installed in Rockefeller Center, New York City, one car being approved to operate at 1,400 feet per minute.

One of the newest electric toasters is provided with windows on the sides, so that the toasting process may be conveniently watched.

Inscriptions carved on the walls of Egypt's temples were often subjected to official censorship before completion, says an Egyptologist.

The largest rodents that exist today are capybaras, which are "giant guinea pigs" that sometimes grow to weigh over a hundred pounds.

A football player may lose as much as seven to ten pounds during a game, but a man in good condition usually regains his weight within a day.

Tensile strength of airplane rivets is doubled by rushing them from a 950-degree heat treating bath to the cold of 100 degrees below zero afforded by dry ice containers.

The electric eye can be used to safeguard workers around some dangerous machinery, by cutting off the power and applying brakes when any one enters the danger zone.

## WITH THE SCIENCES THIS WEEK

## AGRONOMY

What shall we grow in the Boulder Dam area? p. 327. *Plants Useful to Man*—W. W. Robbins and Francis Ramaley—Blakiston, 1933, \$3.

## ARCHAEOLOGY

What is obsidian? p. 328.  
What style of shoes were worn in Texas about 1000 years before Columbus? p. 333.

## ASTRONOMY

What new metals can be used on telescope mirrors? p. 335.

## AVIATION

Can an airplane be landed safely if the pilot cannot see the ground? p. 330.

## BOTANY

Where do stalked puffballs grow? p. 326. *The Gasteromycetes of the Eastern United States and Canada*—W. C. Coker and J. N. Couch—Univ. of N. Car. Press, 1928, \$12.

## CHEMISTRY

How long since the last international congress of chemists? p. 328.

## EMBRYOLOGY

Are apes and men alike before they are born? p. 323.

## ENTOMOLOGY

Are spiders insects? p. 333. *Field Book of Insects*—Frank E. Lutz—Putnam, 1921, \$2.50.

## GEOLOGY

What are tektites? p. 329.

## ICHTHYOLOGY

How big do whale sharks grow? p. 325.

## MEDICINE

Should a cardiac patient go South? p. 324.

## METEOROLOGY

What is ball lightning? p. 323.

## ORNITHOLOGY

Where has a red bob-white been produced? p. 326.

Will ostriches survive cold winters? p. 329.

## PHARMACOLOGY

What is the only bichloride of mercury antidote? p. 328.

## PHYSICS

How many particles are there in the universe? p. 325.

How old are the newest Nobelists? p. 323. *A Short History of Atomism, from Democritus to Bohr*—Joshua C. Gregory—Black, London, 1931, 10s 6d.

## PSYCHIATRY

How does the voice reveal nervous diseases? p. 329.

## PUBLIC HEALTH

What caused the outbreak of amebic dysentery in Chicago? p. 328.

*These curiosity-arousing questions show at a glance the wide field of scientific activity from which this week's news comes. Book references in italic type are not sources of information for the article, but are references for further reading. Books cited can be supplied by Book Dept., Science News Letter, at publishers' prices, prepaid in the United States.*

# The 1933 Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science

**B**OSTON will be host city to the ninety-third meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science from Wednesday, December 27, 1933 to Tuesday, January 2, 1934, inclusive. While this is regarded as the fifth Boston meeting it is actually the sixth time that the Association has met in the Boston-Cambridge area, the second meeting having been held in Cambridge in 1849.

For the 1933 meeting, the official headquarters will be at the Hotel Statler, Boston, where the first general session, as well as a number of special events of importance, will be held. A large number of sections and affiliated societies will meet at this time.

The institutions welcoming the Association are: Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Simmons College, Boston University, Boston College, Northeastern University, Tufts College, Wellesley College and Weston College. Thus the colleges and universities in the whole metropolitan area will participate as hosts to the visiting scientists, although for general convenience the section sessions will be held in Cambridge, in the lecture rooms at Harvard, and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

## ● REGISTRATION

The main registration headquarters will be at Memorial Hall, Harvard University, where registration facilities will be in operation from Wednesday morning, December 27, and maintained throughout the meeting. A subsidiary registration desk will be conducted in the main lobby of the central building of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, especially for the benefit of members of the engineering and other sections, meetings of which will be held at the Institute.

## ● EXHIBITS

Extensive commercial, college and secondary school exhibits will be arranged at Memorial Hall, Harvard, in close proximity to the main meeting place of the various sections.

## ● GENERAL SESSIONS

The first General Session will be at the Hotel Statler on Wednesday evening, December 27, at which notable addresses of welcome and the address of Dr. John J. Abel, the retiring president, will be the principal features. This meeting will be followed by a reception. Other sessions of a general character will be the annual Sigma Xi Lecture at the Statler on Thursday evening and an open meeting under the auspices of Sections M and O, at which an address will be given by Secretary of Agriculture Wallace. Other sessions of special interest will be described in later announcements.

## ● SOCIAL EVENTS

The local committee is arranging a number of social events especially for the entertainment of visiting ladies, including visits to Museums, Wellesley, Radcliffe, etc. The officers of this committee are: A. Lawrence Lowell, Honorary Chairman; Karl T. Compton, Honorary Vice-Chairman; S. C. Prescott, Chairman; K. F. Mather, Vice-Chairman and A. L. Townsend, Secretary.

## ● ATTRACTIONS OF BOSTON

The Boston area is too well known to require extended description. Historically, educationally, and by virtue of its geographic position, it is familiar to many, perhaps to most, American scientists. Itself of great historic interest, its nearness to Plymouth, Salem, Lexington and Concord, and other places interwoven with early colonial life and patriotism make it a center of unusual significance to all Americans.

While Boston as a political unit is a city of approximately 800,000 people, the thirty cities and towns of the metropolitan area, all within a radius of fifteen miles, make the real or "greater" Boston the fourth city of the United States in population, with two and a quarter million people. Its commercial significance, based on the essential industries of wool, cotton, boots and shoes, paper, machinery, etc., is also well known.

Its beautiful park system, excellent harbor, ease of access to mountain, seaside, and charming rural districts need only be mentioned at this time. To those who will attend the Boston meeting this year under winter conditions its significance as an educational and scientific center will perhaps be the chief fact of importance, for Boston is the greatest educational center of the western world, including within its limits, or within a radius of 50 miles, not only the institutions which will act as hosts on this occasion, but numerous other colleges, schools of music and art, preparatory, and vocational schools. The attendants at these institutions would of themselves constitute a city of many tens of thousands.

Among the places of interest in Boston and Cambridge may be mentioned the Peabody Museum, Germanic Museum, Fogg Gallery, Astronomical Observatory and Botanic Gardens, at Harvard; the Nautical Museum at M.I.T.; the Boston Art Museum, Gardner Museum, Boston Public Library, Boston Natural History Society, State House (historic collections), Old State House, Watertown Arsenal, Navy Yard, Bunker Hill, Old South Church, Paul Revere House, etc. An illustrated booklet descriptive of Boston and its environs will be supplied to each registrant through the courtesy of the Boston Chamber of Commerce.

## PROMINENT SPEAKERS

### DR. JOHN J. ABEL

"Poisons and Diseases, and Some Experiments With the Toxin of *Bacillus tetani*" is the subject of an address to be given by Dr. Abel, of the Johns Hopkins University, Wednesday, Dec. 27 at 8:30 p. m.

### DR. HENRY A. SIGERIST

—of the Johns Hopkins University will deliver an address on "The Foundation of Human Anatomy in the Renaissance," Dec. 28 at 8:30 p. m.

### DR. W. M. DAVIS

Dr. Davis, Professor Emeritus of Harvard, will talk on "The Faith of Reverent Science," Dec. 28 at 4:30 p. m.

### HON. HENRY A. WALLACE

"What Can Engineering Do For Agriculture?" is the subject of an address by the Secretary of Agriculture, Dec. 29 at 8:30.

### DR. HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN

The Honorary Life President of the American Museum of Natural History will lecture on "Aristogenesis: the Creative Principle in the Origin of Species," Dec. 30, at 4:30.

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| <b>Psychology (I)</b>                           | Walter R. Miles       | John E. Anderson  |
| <b>Social and Economic Sciences (K)</b>         | Wesley C. Mitchell    | James Ford        |
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| <b>Engineering (M)</b>                          | C. F. Kettering       | Vannevar Bush     |
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● Future meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will be held in Berkeley, Calif., June 18 to 23, 1934; Pittsburgh, Dec. 27, 1934 to Jan. 3, 1935; Minneapolis, summer of 1935, and St. Louis, Dec. 27, 1935 to Jan. 2, 1936.



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