

Determinate variation, by Dr. Chas. O. Whitman, of the University of Chicago; the isolation factor, by Dr. David Starr Jordan, of Stanford University; evolution and psychology, by Dr. G. Stanley Hall, of Clark University.

At night on Friday, January 1, a Darwin memorial dinner was given, attended by about 300 naturalists. Following the dinner, addresses were given by Dr. W. H. Welch, on the debt of medicine to Darwin; by Dr. Albrecht Penck, on the geographical factor in evolution; and by Prof. E. B. Poulton, on Darwin's life and character. Prof. Poulton was particularly happy in his address, and his visit to America at this time and for this purpose was a great gratification to all the members of the American Association. At the close of the dinner a congratulatory telegram was sent to Dr. Alfred Russel Wallace.

The association decided to meet in Boston during convocation week, 1909-10, and the following plans were laid for future meetings: 1910-11, Minneapolis; summer of 1910, Honolulu; 1911-12, Washington; 1912-13, Cleveland; 1913-14, Toronto. The following officers for the coming year were elected:—

President: David Starr Jordan, Stanford University; *Vice-presidents:* Section A, E. W. Brown, of Yale University; Section B, L. A. Bauer, of Carnegie Institution; Section C, Wm. McPherson, of Ohio State University; Section D, J. F. Hayford, of U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey; Section E, R. W. Brock, director of the Geological Survey of Canada; Section F, W. E. Ritter, of University of California; Section G, D. P. Penhallow, of McGill University; Section H, Wm. H. Holmes, of Bureau of Ethnology; Section I, Carroll D. Wright, of Clark College; Section K, C. S. Minot, of Harvard University; Section L, James E. Russell, of Columbia University; *General Secretary:* Dayton C. Miller, of Cleveland; *Secretary of the Council:* F. G. Benedict, of Carnegie Institution.

Among the resolutions of general interest passed by the council were one protesting against special legislation against vivisection; another requesting Congress to do away with tariff on scientific books, instruments, and apparatus; and a third requesting Congress to enlarge the scope of the National Bureau of Education.

Much pleasure was expressed during the meeting at the very courteous action of the British Association in making the officers of the American Association honorary members for the coming Winnipeg meeting, and in offering to the fellows and members of the American Association membership in the British Association for the meeting on the same terms as old members of the British Association, including the receipt of the report of proceedings of the meeting. It seems certain that there will be a large attendance of members of the American Association at the Winnipeg meeting.

THE PROMOTION OF RESEARCH.¹

THE question of the promotion of research is one which makes a very direct appeal to scientific men, most of whom have at some time or other been confronted with the difficulties raised by it. In a little volume which has reached us a scheme is outlined for the promotion of scientific research, under which public money may be awarded to persons making discoveries prescribed by Parliament. According to the scheme, any person who has made such a discovery may apply for a grant, the application being accompanied by a specification of the discovery. The specification is examined for formalities and for novelty of subject-matter, and afterwards all the specifications accepted in one year are submitted to an investigation

¹ "A Scheme for the Promotion of Scientific Research." By Walter B. Priest. 2nd edition. Pp. iv+64. (London: Stevens and Sons, 1908.)

as to the nature and novelty of all the discoveries for that year, grants being then made in relation to the discoveries which comply with the terms prescribed by Parliament.

It will be seen from this brief statement of the scheme that it bears a close resemblance to the grant of Letters Patent to inventors, and, in fact, the scheme is based on the Patents Acts. The patent law enables an inventor to obtain a grant, not of money, but of a monopoly, for a limited time, and by somewhat similar procedure the scheme enables a person making a discovery prescribed by Parliament to obtain a grant, not of a monopoly, but of money. There can, unfortunately, be no doubt that many discoverers have hitherto met with very inadequate remuneration, and that some have not been recognised at all. While it is doubtful whether the establishment of such a scheme would enable discoverers to be remunerated adequately, it would certainly provide for the recognition by the State of "true and first discoverers," and to this extent at least would diminish injustice and encourage scientific research. It might also exert a powerful, though indirect, effect on manufacture, for if such a scheme had been established, and if Parliament had prescribed, say, discoveries relating to glass for optical instruments, how different might have been the position to-day of English manufacturers of optical instruments.

The adoption of such a scheme could without doubt be utilised to accelerate the solution of some of the important problems of physical and chemical science, and many of the life and death problems of medical and biological science.

AN INVESTIGATION OF THE SOCIOLOGY AND RELIGION OF THE ANDAMANESE.

THE inhabitants of the Andaman Islands have long been recognised as one of the most primitive races of mankind. By their geographical position and their ferocity towards strangers, they were practically isolated from the rest of the world until 1858. The tribes of the Great Andaman, which constitute by far the largest part of the whole race, are rapidly diminishing in numbers, and are fast forgetting their ancient lore; the next half-century will witness their entire extinction. It was thus highly desirable that a full investigation should be made of these interesting pygmies before it was too late. Through the labours of Mr. E. H. Man and the publications of Sir Richard Temple and Mr. M. V. Portman, a good deal was known concerning the general life of the people, their language, and other subjects, more particularly those of the southern tribes of the Great Andaman. Owing to recent developments in the studies of comparative sociology and religion, it was desirable that Mr. Man's observation should be confirmed and extended.

When the Board of Anthropological Studies in Cambridge was entrusted with the selection of the first Anthony Wilkin student, it had no hesitation in appointing Mr. A. R. Brown, of Trinity College, to undertake this important investigation. He started for the Andamans at the end of August, 1906, and spent two dry seasons of six months each at his field work in the jungles of the Andaman Islands. Mr. Brown was able to confirm a great deal of what Mr. Man had written concerning the southern tribes and to supplement this by a thorough study of the northern tribes of the Great Andaman.

Measurements on the living subjects prove the Andamanese to be a very homogeneous race, with little variation and a strongly marked racial type. In