

THE CONFERENCE OF AFFILIATED STATE ACADEMIES

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State academies of science which previous to 1919 had been co-operating with the American Association for the Advancement of Science as associated organizations were given by revision of the constitution in 1919 the right of representation in the Council of the Association and called affiliated academies. Eight academies thus became affiliated: Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska, New Orleans and Wisconsin. Since then fifteen academies on application have become affiliated through election by the Council: Michigan and Oklahoma in 1920; Maryland and North Carolina in 1921; Georgia, Indiana, North Dakota, Virginia in 1925; Alabama, New Hampshire, Tennessee and West Virginia in 1926; Pennsylvania and South Carolina in 1927; and Colorado-Wyoming in 1928.

An organization of the affiliated academies was effected during the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Philadelphia in 1926. In response to a call made at the meeting of the Council on December 29, representatives of eleven State academies met in Bennett Hall, of the University of Pennsylvania and organized by electing William H. Alexander, Ohio Academy, Chairman; Howard E. Enders, Indiana Academy, Secretary.

The purpose of the organization was stated to be to secure more efficient co-operation of the academies with one another and with the American Association for the Advancement of Science. A committee was appointed to formulate plans and to arrange with the Council for a meeting at Nashville in 1927. The committee was composed of:

Howard E. Enders, Indiana, Chairman.
John T. McGill, Tennessee.
Wright A. Gardner, Alabama.
G. F. Hull, New Hampshire.
Aute Richards, Oklahoma.

The Executive Committee of the Council of the Association expressed great interest in the action taken by the representatives of the academies and appointed a special committee "to take up the general problem of academy relations and to study ways and means by which the academy movement might be aided." The committee was:

Henry B. Ward, Chairman.
J. McKeen Cattell, Chairman, Executive Committee A.
A. A. S.
Burton E. Livingston, Permanent Secretary, A. A. A. S.

This committee arranged for a conference to be held at Nashville, Monday afternoon, December 26, 1927, to be followed by a complimentary dinner at the Andrew Jackson Hotel, to which would be invited:

- A. The Association's Committee on Academic Relations, Dr. H. B. Ward, Chairman, consisting of:
 1. The Council representative from each affiliated academy.
 2. Three members representing the Executive Committee of the Association.
- B. The members of the committee appointed at the Academy Conference last year at Philadelphia.
- C. The Secretary of each affiliated academy.

This program was carried out at the Nashville meeting of the Association, twelve representatives of the academies and the three members of the Executive Committee of the Council being present. A discussion of the status and the functioning of the conference was followed by the adoption of a resolution offered by Dr. J. McKen Cattell, that it would be desirable at the time and place of the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science to hold annually a conference of representatives of the State Academies of Science and that the Council of the Association be requested to authorize such a conference. William H. Alexander was elected Chairman, and Howard E. Enders, Secretary, for 1928.

The third meeting of the Academy Conference was held in the library of the Lincoln Hotel, New York City, December 27, 1928. Representatives of fourteen academies were present at the meeting and Dr. H. B. Ward and Dr. Burton E. Livingston, of the Executive Committee of the Council. Dr. J. W. Morehouse, representing the Iowa Academy of Science, was elected secretary of the Conference for 1929 and Dr. Howard E. Enders, representing the Indiana Academy of Science, chairman of the conference for 1929. The session was followed by the annual complimentary dinner, to which conference members were invited by the Association.

The next meeting of the Academy Conference will be held at Des Moines, Iowa, in December 1929, during the meeting there of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The relation of the Academy Conference to the American Association for the Advancement of Science is analogous to that of the Secretaries' Conference. The permanent Secretary of the Association, Dr. Burton E. Livingston, in his report of the New York meeting, has this to say about these conferences:

The Secretaries' Conference serves as a special committee of the American Association, to facilitate the interchange of ideas and suggestions among its members for the mutual advantage of the associated societies and the association. Its membership consists of the secretaries of the associated societies, the secretaries of the sections of the association and the members of the executive committee of the association council. It thus forms a useful instrument of liaison between the associated societies and the broader organization.

The Academy Conference acts as a special committee of the American Association on the relations between the affiliated academies of science and between them and the association. The association is anxious to aid the academies in every way and especially to facilitate their representing the aims and purposes of the association in their respective regions.

Since the business of the academy conference deals with matters specially interesting to the academy representatives and since this conference is but newly organized, it will not be necessary in this place to report in detail on its work, and the permanent secretary wishes only to record the fact that the conference is now actively functioning and that it appears to have before it a very useful future. It is expected that its work will shortly become of great interest not only to all academy members but to the general membership of the association as well.¹

¹Science, January 25, 1929.