

# JOURNAL

*of the*

## AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC AFFILIATION



*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Psalm 111:10*

**Volume 1**

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# THE AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC AFFILIATION BULLETIN

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## - FOREWORD -

The first issue of the A.S.A. Bulletin is now in your hands. We would like to indicate by this note the purpose of the Bulletin, the editorial policy to be followed in accepting papers for publication, and the mechanism of publishing the first few issues. It is also our purpose to encourage hereby the greatest possible participation by various members in this undertaking.

The purpose of the A.S.A. Bulletin is manifold. It is intended primarily for the benefit of the A.S.A. members, and interested friends, and it is hoped that it will be instrumental in helping the organization achieve its primary purpose of witnessing to the truth of the Scriptures and elucidating the relationship of both the ideology and fruits of science thereto. Furthermore we confidently expect that in the publication of papers presented at the convention and others received from the membership at large, a real service will be rendered each of us in creating an enlarged appreciation and understanding of the Christian position in other fields of science than that of our own specialization. Also thru the A.S.A. Bulletin, we plan to give every interested member the benefit of a constructive criticism and Christian evaluation of papers presented and of reviews of books of great interest or strategic importance.

If this purpose is to be fulfilled, the cooperation of many members will be necessary. Some will be asked to write book reviews, others will be requested to outline the main problems in their field of specialization relating to science and the Scriptures, and all are expected to submit for publication articles of general interest. Not only is participation in these respects greatly desired, but earnest prayer for the success of this undertaking is sincerely requested.

The Bulletin will contain editorials from time to time. The present and past members of the Executive Council will serve as an editorial staff. Papers submitted will be referred for critical appraisal to a committee consisting of members of the A.S.A. who are specialized in the field with which the paper is concerned. These committees, appointed for each separate paper by the editor, will serve as referees and their recommendations will determine whether a paper is published. Papers submitted at the National Convention will not be handled in this way since the discussion following each convention paper serves to evaluate it.

A word of explanation of the mechanism of publication seems in order. The editor receives, assembles, edits, and prepares all material for publication in accordance with the foregoing procedure. This finished material is then forwarded to the Secretary-Treasurer, Professor Russell L. Mixter in Wheaton, Illinois for mimeographing or printing, and mailing. The format of the Bulletin is largely left up to Professor Mixter, and the question of whether it is mimeographed or printed will depend primarily on the relative expense involved.

Finally, we would like to invite suggestions. While we realize perfection, at least in the eyes of all, is probably impossible, we would like to be sure that the Bulletin meets a fair standard of acceptability. This can probably best be assured by your comments and suggestions.

M.D.B.

## Editorial

### The Bulletin:

During the past year as the circulation of the symposium manuscripts decreased, too few papers, reviews, etc., have been sent out from headquarters. The executive council presents this Bulletin series as at least a partial answer to this condition. It will appear at least quarterly, and may develop into a regularly printed journal. Dr. Barnes, past executive council member, is acting as director of all our publication activities. I urge you to support him in every way, especially in responding to requests for comments on papers, for the selection of papers for publication in the Monograph series depends largely upon your comments on the papers appearing in this Bulletin.

### 1949 Convention:

The 1949 convention will be held in or near Los Angeles. This will be a long trip for some, but it will make possible attendance of many on the West coast who have been deprived heretofore. A surprising number of Eastern and mid-Western members have indicated their intentions of coming to Los Angeles for this meeting. The tentative plan includes a full week of activities, including several field trips of exceptional interest to our members. Plan your vacation trip to include Los Angeles about the middle of August, 1949!

### The Symposium:

MODERN SCIENCE AND CHRISTIAN FAITH is having a good reception. The publisher reports that the small first edition (3000) will probably be sold out early in 1949 according to present indications. Several Christian schools have adopted it as textbook although it appeared too late to be used this semester by many other interested schools. ASA members report that the book is excellent in personal witnessing to men in scientific fields and to students.

However, our good friend Dr. Wilbur M. Smith, author of THEREFORE STAND, expresses a pertinent thought when he wrote recently, "The book is far too important to just appear, sell a few thousand copies, and then disappear. It deserves attention everywhere in this land." Let us work and pray that our book may be used of the Lord and not allowed to "die on the vine." The 75 members throughout the USA constitute the answer to the problem. If each member pushes this book in his own church, among his own friends, and in his own school, this will be an effective sales force. Let each of us augment the normal sales methods in this way so that many may be confronted by the Word of God who otherwise would never be reached.

### A Challenge:

There are about 1700 institutions of higher learning in the United States. It would be a fine thing if we could send at least one copy to the librarian of each of these with a letter requesting a special display of the book because it treats an all important subject, vital in a world of tumbling mores and moral values. Our treasury cannot stand an expenditure of this magnitude. Do any of you know of wealthy Christians who might be challenged with this attack on the intellectual stronghold of materialism? Surely this is evangelism in the language of those we would reach.

In short, gentlemen, the work of the ASA is just what we few members, by the Grace of the Lord, make of it. If we are lethargic, the work will shrivel; if there is no vision, no progress. I urge each member to make a positive and definite contribution to the work of the ASA, unsolicited, during 1949 that these students might be reached with the claims of Christ.

F. Alton Everest,  
President.

### THE THIRD ANNUAL CONVENTION

Twenty five members and friends of the American Scientific Affiliation registered for the convention held at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan, September 1 to 3, 1948. Edwin Monsma and Martin Karsten and their wives welcomed us to the dormitory with a fellowship hour before the convention.

You will receive in the Bulletins the substance of the ideas and discussions of a Biblico-scientific nature; also reports of sectional meetings of the past year. The suggestions and announcements from the business sessions follow.

#### Announcements

1. For Moody Monthly and Van Kampen Press, members have reviewed manuscripts of articles and books. It will help editor Barnes if any one reviewing a book will send him a copy of the review to be used in the Bulletin. Bibliographies on the Bible and Science are desired.
2. Constitution revisions will be considered by a committee and sent to the members for evaluation.
3. Dr. Alfred Eckert by letter reported on the progress made in producing a pamphlet called "Fourteen Prominent Scientists Look at Life."
4. Dr. Roger Voskuyl will head a membership committee to solicit new members and suggest revisions in types of membership.
5. The A.S.A. voted approval of the film "Voice of the Deep" which was reviewed by a large audience in the auditorium. Much credit belongs to our President, F. Alton Everest for the excellent planning and technique of the motion picture.
6. The pamphlet "Evolution," written by Dr. John Howitt, one of our members and the monograph "Christian Theism and the Empirical Sciences" by Dr. Cornelius Jaarsma, are available to members from the secretary.  
     "Evolution," 20¢ each, \$2.00 per dozen  
     "Monograph," 15¢ each, in lots of 25 or more, 10¢ each
7. Drs. Laurence Kulp and Joseph Maxwell were nominated to succeed Dr. E. Y. Monsma on the executive council. The nominating committee were Drs. Cowperthwaite, Hartzler, Marquart and Prof. Oorthuys. Dr. Kulp has recently been elected.
8. President Everest invited the Affiliation to meet in Los Angeles in 1949. Possible side trips include the La Brea Tar Pits and Palomar Observatory.
9. "Modern Science and Christian Faith," the Christian Students Science Symposium, appeared in the hands of the editor, F. Alton Everest, whose remarks of gratitude to authors and publisher were matched by commendations of the editor's efforts. Copies of the book may be purchased from the secretary-treasurer for \$1.80. If the book is sold by a member, he should charge \$3.00, sending the profit to the treasury.
10. The publications committee, Dr. Voskuyl chairman, named Dr. Marion Barnes to be editor of a periodical, herein called the Bulletin.

#### Suggestions

1. A complete set of Victoria Institute publications should be owned by the A.S.A. Selected articles could be lithographed for publication in the Bulletin.
2. Reviews of current books on atomic research are desired.
3. Broad surveys on the relation of the several fields of science to the Scriptures should be undertaken.

4. The library of the A.S.A. should be placed in a central location. Representatives of institutions desiring to shelter the volumes owned by the A.S.A. may write to the Secretary.

#### Special Features

"Has Archaeological Research Proved Solomon to be a Myth" was answered authoritatively in the negative by Dr. Allan A. MacRae in the first public lecture. Officers of the A.S.A. formed a panel to discuss "The Role of A.S.A. in Christian Testimony" for the second public meeting. The colored, sound (theologically and physically) film "Voice of the Deep" climaxed the evening. Anyone desiring to present the picture may write to its producer, the Moody Institute of Science, 11428 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Los Angeles 25, California.

Dr. Gelmer Vannord of the Christian Psychopathic Hospital invited us to see the facilities of his institution. In the pleasant surroundings at Pine Rest, near Grand Rapids, we viewed the buildings and heard of the considerate treatment given to patients by the competent staff.

#### Appreciation

To the local committee, E. Y. Monsma and Martin Karsten, to the program committee, Paul DeKoning, chairman, Paul Bender, Joseph Maxwell and Frank Cassel, and to Calvin College, goes our gratitude for careful and thoughtful planning and gracious hospitality.

R. Mixter, Sec'y.