

The Washington Historical Quarterly

HISTORY OF SCIENCE IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

A rather elaborate and hopeful program was announced in the April issue of this *Quarterly* for the publication of a series of articles recording the progress made within the State of Washington in the various fields of science. That program is by no means abandoned but the preparation of the articles is proving more difficult than was at first anticipated. The installments for this issue are therefore postponed.

It will probably hearten those who are interested in this undertaking, and especially those who are gathering materials for the group of articles, to read some of the more important comments on the original announcement.

Dr. John C. Merriam, President of Carnegie Institution of Washington, wrote: "I am greatly interested in the problem of history and science and am much pleased to read your statement. Sometime I shall try to send you some small publications which I have written on this general subject. I believe that the field of study of the relation of science to history and the history of science is one of the most interesting at the present time and is worthy of the effort you are giving to this subject."

President Nicholas Murray Butler of Columbia University expressed gratitude for and interest in the work here begun. A similar message was received from Professor Lynn Thorndike of the Department of History in the same institution.

Professor Frederick Barry, of the Department of History, Columbia University, after commendations, adds: "I am much interested in watching those general tendencies in the study of history which appear to be gradually but quite definitely enlarging its scope and (in my opinion) repairing what I conceive to be past errors of judgment among historians in their continued over-emphasis of the political in contrast with the more important cultural developments of the past."

Dr. Charles A. Beard, eminent educator and author in the

fields of history and government, writes from his home in New Milford, Connecticut: "Thanks heartily for the copy of the *Quarterly*. You are striking out on the right line and will make contributions to that history of American civilization that can be written fifty years from now when the spade work has been done."

Professor Edgar E. Robinson, Department of History, Stanford University, commends most cordially the proposed series of articles and then says: "You may be interested to know that for the past five years in our course in Citizenship, required of all freshmen at Stanford, we have given some time to the presentation of the scientific method and have attempted through class discussions to build upon it the development of a scientific attitude." Another Stanford University Professor, Ralph H. Lutz, was also cordial in his commendation of the program as announced.

Dr. George Sarton, Associate in the History of Science, Carnegie Institution of Washington, author of the extensive and recently published *Introduction to the History of Science*, not only expressed gratitude for the announcement of the plan projected in the State of Washington but he also sent a number of publications calling attention to the work now under way by the History of Science Society. Doctor Sarton is editor of *Isis*, the international review devoted to the History of Science and the quarterly organ of the History of Science Society.

The Corresponding Secretary of that society is Frederick E. Brasch, Chief of the Smithsonian Division, Library of Congress. He wrote: "I was indeed very much interested in the fact that you are initiating a movement to encourage the history of science study, through your *Quarterly*. It is a good sign to see how this movement is taking hold in various parts of the country, especially by the historical group which have to do with social, economic and political history."

It is evident that the proposed series of articles, although restricted as to area covered, will be deemed of value and interest in scholarly circles far removed from the State of Washington.

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