

president of the next congress, in Perth, Sir Baldwin Spencer said Sir Thomas Lyall had long been one of his acquaintances in Melbourne University, a matter of thirty years or more, and he was held in the highest respect by every member

constitution, comprising a few articles instead of many. The short constitution, he said, could be accompanied by a more detailed set of by-laws and rules of procedure, itemised under the number of sections in the constitution. For amendments to the constitution they needed only to secure the unanimous consent at any general session of the association, or a majority vote at two successive annual meetings; and the by-laws and rules may be changed at any time by vote of the council. The points which became apparent upon even an elementary analysis comprised:—1. The need of a constitution of few articles with a few flexible by-laws and regulations under each main article of the constitution. 2. The need of great cohesion between the sections by means of continuity of office for certain officials, such as secretaries of sections, so that papers, discussions, and recommendations might be well considered and chosen. 3. The need for decided improvement of finances, so that information might be supplied from a central office, and that research work might be carried on properly. 4. The need for both foresight and forethought in the formation of re-

search committees. 5. The need for whole-hearted co-operation between scientific institutions of standing and the association, and that the A.A.A.S. might become the co-ordinator and spokesman for the divergent interests of technical societies, which would tend to dissipate their strength by disunited effort, whereas they should work harmoniously and co-dependently. Mr. Andrews said a multiplication of technical societies was a recognised potential danger to any general association for the advancement of science on account of the lack of co-ordination and co-operation.

The following committee was appointed to enquire and report on the suggestion:—Sir George Knibbs, Sir John Monash, Sir Baldwin Spencer, Mr. Andrews, Mr. L. Keith Ward, and Dr. H. C. Richards.

The necessity for continuity of membership arising out of the proposals outlined by Mr. Andrews was emphasised in a statement by the convener (Dr. H. C. Richards).

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IMPERIAL AFFAIRS.