

PREFACE

THIS biographical directory of American Men of Science was begun as a manuscript reference list for the Carnegie Institution of Washington, which made an appropriation of \$1,000 toward the clerical and office expenses. It is hoped that the publication will be a contribution to the organization of science in America. There is here given for the first time a fairly complete survey of the scientific activity of a country at a given period. As a reference book for the field it covers, it may be even more useful in academic circles than *Minerva* or *Who's Who in America*. But the chief service it should render is to make men of science acquainted with one another and with one another's work. There scarcely exists among scientific men the recognition of common interest and the spirit of cooperation which would help to give science the place it should have in the community. It is fully as important for the nation as for men of science that scientific work should be adequately recognized and supported. We are consequently in the fortunate position of knowing that whatever we do to promote our own interests is at the same time a service to the community and to the world.