Ridgway Collection

Hearst's
Magazine

The World To-day

381 Fourth Avenue
New York

October Tenth,
Nineteen Twelve.

Mr. R. Ridgway,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

In the forthcoming number of Hearst's Magazine, the regular Science Department will be devoted to a general review of the progress of science in the past decade. It seems desirable to round out the subject by naming the unsolved problems that are chiefly occupying the attention of the workers in various fields; and I should like to do this with wider vision and fuller authority than could possibly attach to the estimate of any one individual. Therefore I am asking the co-operation of a number of leading scientific workers, representing different departments of research.

Will you not name for the magazine public the two or three important unsolved problems in your own particular field of research that seem to you to lie nearest to hand, so to speak, in the realm of the undiscovered, just ahead? If you care to add any words of general comment, or to refer me to any recent publication of your views along these lines, or to any papers concerning your newest work, you will place me doubly under obligation.

I wish to show the general reader that, despite the wonderful progress of recent years, there is work ahead for any number of investigators; hoping thereby to stimulate popular interest in researches that often suffer for lack of public approval. The obvious desirability of this emboldens me to hope that you may not esteem the above request an imposition on your time and good-nature.

Assuring you of my hearty appreciation of your response, however brief, I am

Yours very sincerely,

H. H. Williams.

P. S. An early reply would be doubly appreciated, as the article in question is being prepared for the January issue of the Magazine.