

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

C. C. COFFIN

(Read October 18, 1948)

Members of the Institute:

In this brief review of Institute activities during the past year I must first refer to the death of Dr. S. G. Ritchie, one of our oldest and most respected members. Dr. Ritchie was elected an ordinary member in 1918 and later became a life member. During 1924 to 1926 he filled the office of President. Until recently he took an active part in Institute affairs and displayed keen interest in scientific matters far beyond the bounds of his profession. It is with sincere regret that I record his passing.

I believe that as an Institute we can look back upon the past year with reasonable satisfaction. Our membership has increased by 10 ordinary, 1 associate and 18 student members. During the year the Council elected Mr. Robie Tufts to Honorary Membership on the occasion of his retirement as Migratory Bird Officer. This brings to 8 the list of our members whose services to the Institute and to science the Council has seen fit to recognize. Our total membership at present is thus made up as follows:

Honorary members.....	8
Life.....	10
Ordinary.....	66
Associate.....	50
Student.....	47
Corresponding.....	5

making a total of 186. I have not searched the records in this matter but I believe that this constitutes an all time high in membership.

During the year six ordinary meetings were held with an average attendance of 42. It is interesting to note that the average attendance in the previous year was 41. At these

meetings 13 papers on original work were presented and 2 demonstrations were given. These papers may be broken down as follows:

Biochemistry	3
Chemistry	5
Physics	2
Physiology	1
Zoology	2

13

During the year our Library, which consists of publications received in exchange for our Proceedings, has undergone some major changes. These will be dealt with in detail in the Librarian's report. I would like, however, to take this opportunity to urge the incoming Council and the Institute as a whole to regard the Library as one of our major responsibilities. Although at present it is rather scattered a careful record should be kept of all its parts and acquisition, and every effort should be made to ensure that a clear title to them is retained. Although now it is broken up (and perhaps has its immediate usefulness enhanced thereby) it should be regarded as an entity which some day we may be able to house as such.

During the year the extensive revision of the exchange list made necessary by the war has been practically completed. The amount of work which this has entailed may be judged from the Report of the Corresponding secretary and I would like to take this opportunity to convey to him the thanks and appreciation of the Institute for the time and energy he has so generously contributed to this undertaking.

I believe that we may be reasonably well satisfied with our financial situation which will be dealt with in the Treasurer's Report.

In conclusion I should like to thank personally the Officers and other members of the Council for the generous assistance they have accorded me during my term of office.