

SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1898.

MEMORIAL OF THE FIRST HALF CENTURY
OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

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THE Smithsonian Institution was established by a law signed by President Polk, on August 10, 1846, and on the approach of the fiftieth anniversary of this event the Secretary and the Board of Regents began preparations for its commemoration. It was deemed impracticable to summon delegates from the world-wide affiliated scientific institutions to an assemblage in Washington, and therefore it was decided, as the simplest and most effective means of celebrating the jubilee, to publish a volume containing an account of the history, achievements and present condition of the Smithsonian Institution.

Such is the origin of the superb work recently issued by the Institution; superb in its mechanical features, dignified in its plan, and of incalculable value as a record of a most remarkable outcome of the legacy of James Smithson. The editorial supervision of the book was at first placed in the hands of Dr. James C. Welling, a Regent, but his untimely death necessitated the selection of another, and it was confided to Dr. G. Brown Goode, the Assistant Secretary, who had already drawn up the original plan. Unhappily Dr. Goode died before the completion of the task, but the manuscript was so far advanced that the task was finished upon the lines laid down by him.

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the responsible editor, Prof. J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.