

PRESENTATION OF A BUST TO PROFESSOR
CHAMBERLIN.

PROFESSOR J. C. BRANNER, of Stanford University, proposed at the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in 1901, to present a bust of Professor T. C. Chamberlin to the University of Chicago in recognition of his eminent services to the science of geology. A number of other geologists joined Professor Branner, and the bust was presented with appropriate ceremonies on February 7. The principal address was made by Professor Van Hise, who gave an account of Professor Chamberlin's investigations, in the course of which he said:

"Professor Chamberlin has the speculative power of the Greeks in seeing lines along which a solution may lie; but, unlike the Greeks, is not content when a possible solution has been suggested. After the modern scientific man has devised various possible solutions he has before him the far more difficult task of determining the *true* solution. The profound difference between the ancient speculative philosopher about science, and the modern scientific man, is that the one requires only a brilliant constructive intellect and reasoning power; while the other requires with this a capacity for patient, laborious, consecutive, constructive work running through years, exhaustive collection of material, observational work in the field, experimental work in the laboratory, verification and re-verification, sifting, testing, judging, and thus finding out, not what *may be* the truth, but what *is* the truth. It seems to me that Professor Chamberlin's eminent success as a scientist lies in this two-fold power. With speculative ability only, a man is untrustworthy and erratic. With the power of steady drudgery only, he is mediocre. Combine the two, and he is a scientist of the first rank."

Addresses were also made by President Harper, Professor Salisbury and Dr. Bain, and Professor Chamberlin responded as follows:

"It is quite impossible for me to express in any fitting way the feelings that arise in response to this very unusual honor. I was surprised when the request—put in the jocular

form of command—to sit to Mr. Taft, came to me. I have not ceased to be surprised ever since, and I am more surprised to-day at the terms that have been used in this presentation. If there have been two things that have been supreme objects of aspiration to me on the professional side, they are the desire to develop and present some truths that shall live as long as man shall have need of truths; and the other, that I may touch by some small measure of inspiration young minds with longer lives and with better preparation for the work of the future than are granted to me. My students and my colleagues know that as a result of my studies I make no limited estimate or forecast of the future of the earth and of its possibilities, of the future of man and his great development. I see no early and final winter; I see no portending calamity to this earth. I see a possibility, a probability, almost a certainty, of millions of years of human endurance on the earth; and, in view of that fact, when I recognize that every truth lives and works every day and every hour, by night and by day, I feel that, even though a small truth be brought forth and sent upon its mission, in the long ages in which it has to work it can not but do great things. And when I think of the influences which young men and young women, coming to the active spheres of life with greater advantages than those of us of the past have had, will exert in the fulness of time; when I realize that they will be able to transmit to others, and these to others, and to others still, the measure of thought that comes to them—though I realize that all this must lose its personal relationship to its author and must be submerged in the common flood of influences that will commingle with it as time goes on—yet, it is a pleasant and inspiring thought that these, too, shall work and that the truth sown shall be fruitful as long as man walks upon the earth. It is especially grateful to me to hear to-day from my colleagues in science, from those whose judgment I must respect, such expressions regarding the scientific investigations which I have been permitted to make. It is also especially gratifying to hear the expressions of

appreciation of those whom I have been privileged to lead in the early paths of truth. I can not express all that I would. I hope that you will take my wish in place of my inability."

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

THE board of regents of the Smithsonian Institution held an adjourned meeting on the morning of March 12, all the members being present with the exception of Senator Cullom, President Angell, Mr. Olney and Dr. White.

The chancellor, the chief justice of the United States, reported on behalf of the committee appointed at the last meeting of the board, to consider the whole subject of defining the powers and duties of the executive committee. Two meetings of the committee had been held, but two members, Senator Cullom and Representative Dinsmore, had been unable to attend, and the other members of the committee, considering the importance of the subject entrusted to their consideration, would not take the responsibility of making a report unless the matter could be considered by the full committee. The chief justice expressed the opinion, however, that the committee realized that under present arrangements too little time was afforded the regents for the consideration and discussion of the important matters entrusted to their care. He thought that there should be more frequent meetings of the board of regents, and regular and stated meetings of the executive committee. Senator Platt and Representative Adams of the committee agreed with him in this, and Representative Adams offered a resolution providing for three meetings of the board of regents each year: One, the annual meeting in January, for the transaction of the usual routine business, and the others—one on the sixth of December, and one on the Tuesday following the first Monday in March—for the discussion of the affairs of the institution, and for a free interchange of views among the members. This resolution was passed unanimously.

In the discussion the opinion was very generally expressed that the executive committee also should hold more frequent meetings, and

that they should have regular and stated meetings for the discussion of the affairs of the institution, but the members thought that the executive committee should provide for its own meetings, and that this was not a matter calling for the action of the board.

The members also very generally expressed the opinion that the board was not ready to define the powers and duties of the executive committee—that this demanded careful consideration and an examination of the organization, and of the United States statutes referring to it. It was therefore moved that the committee be continued and that it should make a report upon the subject at the next meeting of the board which will be on December 6, unless this should fall upon a Sunday, in which case the meeting will be on Monday following. This resolution was passed by the board, and it is understood that in accordance with the suggestion of Judge Gray the secretary will prepare for the use of the board, a pamphlet containing references to all the United States statutes referring to the institution and its allied bureaus.

The subject of the new building for the National Museum came up for consideration. Congress has appropriated the sum of three millions and a half dollars for a new building for the National Museum, and the making of contracts, etc., for the erection of the building has been placed by congress in the hands of Mr. Bernard R. Green. Action was taken looking to the beginning of immediate work upon the new museum building, authorizing the secretary with the advice and consent of the chancellor, and the chairman of the executive committee, to arrange with Mr. Bernard R. Green in reference to carrying out the act of congress.

The question of the management of the government bureaus in charge of the Smithsonian Institution and the policy of the institution towards these bureaus then came up for discussion. Dr. Bell recommended a return to the policy of the first secretary, Professor Henry, and urged the importance of granting autonomy to each bureau. He stated that it was the duty of the regents to consider