

terested, and remember the advice given you in making your reports to the class, never to read them. I would like now to add to that advice the recommendation that when you do read a report, as I have this, you introduce into it something guaranteed to prevent drowsiness on the part of your audience.

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NOTES RELATIVE TO THE INVENTORS GUILD

IN the early part of 1910, several men who had done work along the line of invention, and who, in developing and patenting their inventions, had come to realize the difficulties and disadvantages under which the inventor labors, instituted a movement for the formation of a society looking toward the betterment of these conditions. The result of this movement was the formation and incorporation in New York City of the Inventors Guild, the object of which is briefly outlined in the following quotation from the Constitution of the society:

The object of the Guild is to advance the application of the useful arts and sciences, to further the interests and secure full acknowledgment and protection for the rights of inventors, to foster social relations among those who have made notable advances in the application of the useful arts and sciences.

Some of the handicaps to which the inventor is subject, other than the proverbial one of never having any money, are the delays in the Patent Office and the ineffectiveness of its work, due to over-crowding and lack of proper facilities; the expense and tardiness of litigation, and the possibility under which a rich corporation may, by delaying and prolonging a suit, increase the expenses to a point which makes such suits prohibitive for a poor inventor; the disadvantage to which the American inventor is subject in foreign patent offices, as compared with the liberality of the

American Patent Office toward the foreign inventor; and many other conditions militating against the American inventor which should be remedied.

The membership of the Inventors Guild is limited to fifty. The idea of limiting the membership is that with a small society of this sort it is easier to accomplish real results than with a larger organization, hampered as it must be by unwieldiness and red tape. Further, with a small organization each man will feel that he is a working unit, and that he will be depended upon to do real work, whereas in a large organization the general feeling is that there will be plenty of other men to do the work, and that lack of assistance from any particular member will make little, if any, difference. The result is that in the large organization the work, if any, is usually done by even a smaller number of members than that provided for in the Inventors guild.

It is proposed to select the membership of the guild carefully, and to this end a member must be formally proposed by a member of the guild, must be personally known to five members of the guild, must pass the membership committee and board of governors, and finally must be voted upon by the whole membership, four per cent. of the votes cast being sufficient to reject a candidate. The object of such discrimination is to include amongst the members of the guild men who not only have made inventions, but who have achieved some measure of success therewith, and who will therefore be capable of exerting some influence; and also that no one shall be admitted who will not be congenial to practically the entire membership.

The officers of the Inventors Guild are as follows: *President*, Ralph D. Mershon; *First Vice-president*, Chas. W. Hunt; *Second Vice-president*, Chas. S. Bradley; *Secretary*, Thomas Robins; *Treasurer*, Henry L. Doherty.

The Board of Governors are: Ralph D. Mershon, Leo H. Baekeland, Chas. W. Hunt, Chas. S. Bradley, Michael I. Pupin, Peter Cooper Hewitt.

The Professional Committee are: F. L. O. Wadsworth, *Chairman*; Thomas A. Edison, Chas. S. Bradley, Peter Cooper Hewitt, Michael I. Pupin, Bion J. Arnold.

At the present time the guild has twenty-nine members, as follows: Bion J. Arnold, Dr. L. H. Baekeland, W. H. Blauvelt, Chas. S. Bradley, Alex. E. Brown, Henry L. Doherty, Thomas A. Edison, Carleton Ellis, Stephen D. Field, James Gayley, Edward R. Hewitt, Peter Cooper Hewitt, Chas. W. Hunt, Dr. John F. Kelly, T. S. C. Lowe, Ralph D. Mershon, Ambrose Monell, Professor Edwin F. Northrup, Professor G. W. Pierce, Chas. E. Pope, Professor Michael I. Pupin, Thomas Robins, Dr. F. Schniewind, C. H. Smoot, Professor Carl Thomas, F. L. O. Wadsworth, Arthur West, Dr. W. E. Winship, B. F. Wood.

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

BELOW is given the program of the popular meetings of the National Geographic Society for 1910-11.

The program of lectures can be followed until after January 13. There will probably be several shiftings of the lectures in order to meet the convenience of the speakers. All lectures begin at 8.15 promptly.

November 18: "Wild Man and Wild Beast in Africa." By Colonel Theodore Roosevelt. This lecture will be in Convention Hall.

November 25: "A Glimpse of Portugal." By Miss Laura Bell. Miss Bell was in Portugal for several months during the past summer, and has had an exceptional opportunity to understand the people and conditions of this picturesque country. Illustrated.

December 2: "Four Journeys of a Naturalist in the Islands of the South Pacific." By Henry E. Crampton, Ph.D., of the American Museum of Natural History. Dr. Crampton will tell of his travels in the Society, Cook, Tonga, Samoan and Hawaiian Islands, and in New Zealand. The natives, their every-day lives and ceremonies, the active volcanoes of Samoa and Hawaii and the free life of the Pacific will be described. Illustrated.

December 9: "My Friends, the Indians." By Mr. Frederic Monsen. Illustrated with color-graphs and motion pictures. Mr. Monsen for years has been studying the Indians of Arizona

and New Mexico, and his series of pictures of Indian life and manners are as beautiful as they are instructive.

December 16: "The Glories, Sorrows and Hopes of Ireland." By Mr. Seumas MacManus, author of "A Lad of the O'Friel's," "Through the Turf Smoke," "Donegal Fairy Stories," "Ballads of a Country Boy," etc. Illustrated.

December 30: "From Babel to Esperanto—the Complication of Mother Tongues and the Simplicity of Esperanto." By Prof. A. Christen. Professor Christen is a leading authority on Esperanto. The growth of internationalism and the need of a world tongue lend interest to this topic. "Esperanto is spreading in almost every European nation, and is more easily learned and pronounced than any other foreign language. It is taught in all the higher military and naval schools of France, and at Lille has been taught in the public schools for the past three years."

January 6: "Arab Life in Tunisia." By Frank Edward Johnson. Mr. Johnson has probably seen more of the Barbary States than any other American. His lecture includes Tunis ("the White City"), the remains of Carthage and other buried Roman cities, Kairowan with its 85 mosques and 90 praying places, and descriptions of the Arabs in the oases and in the desert. Illustrated.

January 13: "The Methods, the Achievements and the Character of the Japanese." By Mr. George Kennan. Illustrated.

January 20: "Making Pictures. The Wonderful Development of the Art of Photography and its Value to Education and Commerce." By Hon. O. P. Austin, Chief of the United States Bureau of Statistics and Secretary of the National Geographic Society. Illustrated with motion pictures.

January 27: "The Panama Canal." By Col. George W. Goethals, Chief Engineer Panama Canal. Illustrated.

February 3: "Our Plant Immigrants." By Mr. David Fairchild, in charge of Agricultural Explorations of the Department of Agriculture. The hunt for valuable new plants and fruits takes the agricultural explorers to many unknown corners of the world, and is a fascinating story of achievement. Illustrated.

February 10: "The Balkan States." By Mr. E. M. Newman. With motion pictures.

February 17: "The Heart of Turkestan." By Mr. William E. Curtis. Illustrated.

February 24: "The Italy of To-day." By Maj. Gen. A. W. Greely, U. S. Army. General Greely has just returned to the United States after