

arc was very much below the melting point of zinc.

The residue remains within the still. This should be digested out from time to time, depending upon the condition of the impure mercury. Where one is dealing with comparatively pure mercury 50 to 75 pounds may be distilled off during a single run.

CHAS. T. KNIPP

LABORATORY OF PHYSICS,  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS,  
January, 1911

#### THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS

THE seventh annual meeting was held at Pittsburgh, December 29-31, 1910, under the presidency of Dr. H. C. Cowles, of the University of Chicago. His address was upon the subject, "The Causes of Vegetative Cycles." Public lectures were given by Professor Mark Jefferson on "Rocky Mountain Forms," and by Dr. Cowles on the "Origin and Destiny of the Everglades." Professor Rollin D. Salisbury conducted a round table conference on the "Purposes of Geographic Instruction, and the Phases of the Subject best adapted to these Purposes." About twenty-five papers were read by the members.

The following officers were elected: *President* Professor Ralph S. Tarr, Cornell University; *First Vice-president*, Alfred H. Brooks, U. S. Geological Survey; *Second Vice-president*, Henry G. Bryant, president of the Geographical Society of Philadelphia; *Secretary*, A. P. Brigham, Colgate University; *Treasurer*, Professor N. M. Fenneman, University of Cincinnati; *Councillor* (for three years), Professor Herbert E. Gregory, Yale University.

The following were appointed as delegates to the Geographical Congress to be held in Rome in October, 1911: Cyrus C. Adams, A. P. Brigham, H. C. Cowles, W. M. Davis, H. W. Fairbanks and Ralph S. Tarr.

Members newly elected are: Charles A. Davis, U. S. Bureau of Mines; F. V. Emerson, University of Missouri; Otto E. Jennings, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh; Wolfgang L. G. Joerg, American Geographical Society; Alexander G. Ruthven, University of Michigan; Victor E. Shelford, University of Chicago; L. H. Wood, Western State Normal School, Michigan.

The association has voted to establish a publication, and has appointed the following publica-

tion committee: Richard E. Dodge, chairman and editor, Alfred H. Brooks, Henry C. Cowles and Ralph S. Tarr.

Following the discussions of the round-table conference, the association adopted the resolutions herewith appended.

"The Association of American Geographers at its Pittsburgh meeting, December 29-31, discussed the present status of physical geography in secondary education and passed the following resolutions:

"*Resolved*, that in the opinion of this association physical geography fully deserves to retain a place in the high school.

"That the disappointment or dissatisfaction sometimes expressed regarding the results of teaching this subject is in large measure due to inefficient teaching.

"That as a means of removing this dissatisfaction, superintendents and principals are urged to procure teachers of physical geography adequately prepared in their subject, and to entrust the subject only to such teachers.

"That no teacher of physical geography should be appointed in any educational grade who has not made serious and special study of the subject in a higher educational grade."

A committee on state educational bulletins was appointed to report at the next meeting: N. M. Fenneman, chairman, W. M. Davis and R. H. Whitbeck.

The next meeting will be held in Washington in connection with the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

ALBERT PERRY BRIGHAM,  
*Secretary*

#### SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

##### THE FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS STATE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

THE fourth annual meeting of the Illinois State Academy of Science was held Friday and Saturday, February 17 and 18, at the University of Chicago.

About two hundred persons attended the combined sessions of the two days, and the excellence of the papers and the general air of enthusiasm which prevailed was on a par, if not in excess, of previous meetings. The total membership is now four hundred and eight; of this number, thirty-seven were elected at the Chicago meeting. A study of the geographic distribution of the membership is significant, as the annexed table shows.