

SCIENCE

FRIDAY, MAY 23, 1913

OPENING ADDRESS¹

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

WE have come together especially to take note of the fact that fifty years ago a number of prominent workers in the field of science founded the National Academy of Sciences, receiving a charter from the United States government. It would be interesting and instructive to call the roll of the founders and learn who they were, but it will suffice to refer to some of the most conspicuous among these or, perhaps it would be better to say, some of those whose names are most familiar to the present generation. High up on this honor list are Louis Agassiz, James D. Dana, Wolcott Gibbs, B. A. Gould, Asa Gray, A. Guyot, Joseph Henry, J. Leidy, J. P. Lesley, Benjamin Peirce, R. E. Rogers, W. B. Rogers, L. M. Rutherford, Benjamin Silliman, Jeffries Wyman and J. D. Whitney. Fifty names are included in the act of incorporation. Among those are several members of the United States Army and Navy, as for example, J. G. Barnard, J. A. Dahlgren, Charles H. Davis, John Rogers, J. G. Totten, and others holding positions in the United States Military Academy and the United States Naval Observatory.

A careful scrutiny of the list of incorporators will show that they can be classified under three heads. The majority were engaged in scientific researches and had reached results of value. They were the leaders among the scientific investigators of that day. Then there were those who had gained distinction by their services as engineers either in the army or navy; and a

¹ Delivered by the president at the anniversary meeting of the National Academy of Sciences, April 22, 1913.