building stone, has been transferred to monumental stone, the class in which it more properly belongs. New Hampshire, Vermont, California, Georgia, Rhode Island and Minnesota had values in excess of $100,000 in 1917. Of these Georgia made gains in the last two years, its value for 1917 nearly doubling that of 1915, and Rhode Island more than tripled its value for 1916. The other states named showed decreases of 10 to 50 per cent.

The reduced output during the last year was due to a marked increase in the cost of labor, material and freight. The general average increase was probably about 30 per cent., but some items increased much more.

Prices increased, though in most places not in proportion to the increase in costs. Some producers reported an increase of 20 to 30 per cent. One company in Maine reported an increase of 50 per cent., and two companies in New Jersey an increase of 100 per cent. for rough stone. A few companies in New Hampshire, Maryland and the District of Columbia reported no increase in price.

The demand was prevailingly small, owing to a general curtailment in the erection of both government and private buildings in which granite is ordinarily used. This curtailment in turn was caused by a shortage of labor for building, a shortage of other building materials, and the increased price of these materials and of building stone.

As building operations were very active early in 1917, the curtailment in them not becoming marked until about midsummer, the production in 1917 may be considered an average between very good and very poor. The period of severe depression continued through the first six months of 1918, and as there is no prospect of early improvement the production of building stone, as well as of other materials that are used mainly in buildings of the better classes, will probably be considerably less in 1918 than in 1917. The present abnormal period, in which most of the buildings erected are temporary, will probably be followed by a period in which permanent buildings of high architectural merit will be constructed, and this change will be reflected in a rapid recovery of the building granite industry.

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

The following report from the editorial board of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* was presented by the chairman, Raymond Pearl, at the spring meeting of the academy and is now printed in the *Proceedings*.

1. Three volumes of the *Proceedings* have been completed, and four numbers of the fourth volume have been issued.

The statistics as to the make-up of the third volume, both in respect of subject-matter and of source of the contributions, have been printed in the Annual Report of the Academy for 1917, and need not now be repeated except so far as covers one point.

The statistics of articles by members of the academy as compared with articles by non-members are interesting mainly in showing a progressive diminution in the percentage of articles by members, despite the increase in membership of the academy. If there are obstacles which can be removed and which hinder members of the academy from printing in the *Proceedings*, would it not be well to make efforts to remove them? The academy represents the highest point in American research, and if the *Proceedings* should actually contain articles representing the totality of the investigations of members of the academy it would become thereby largely representative of all American research and of very high grade, and furthermore it would be more truly the proceedings of the academy in the sense that corresponding publications of foreign academies are representative of their research.

2. At the autumn meeting the terms of office of five members of the editorial board expired, and new appointments were made by the council as follows: Jacques Loeb, W. M. Wheeler, E. B. Frost, E. L. Thorndike and E. H. Moore.

3. At the autumn meeting the board decided to put into operation certain changes in the typographical make-up of the *Proceedings* in the interest of economy. These changes have been made with satisfactory results.

4. The editorial board is of the opinion that in view of the now established and recognized position of the *Proceedings* as a medium of scientific publication, the members of the academy might well contribute more of their own papers to its pages than they now do, both from the standpoint of self-interest as well as from a sense of duty to the academy and what it stands for. In this con-

nection the board would recommend that the academy adopt as a general principle the policy of requiring each recipient of a grant for research from any of its special funds to publish some account of the results of the researches under the grant in the *Proceedings*.

5. If the above recommendation is adopted, the board would further recommend that the academy suggest to the several committees having in charge trust funds from which grants are made that whenever accounts of researches under grants are published in the *Proceedings* there shall be paid over from the trust funds out of which the grants are made, to the *Proceedings* account, if such action be permissible under the terms of the bequest, a sum of money to cover the expense of the publication at a rate of $6.00 per printed page.

Anent the above report the following recommendations were submitted from the council and adopted.

That the following recommendations from the editorial board of the *Proceedings* be approved by the academy and that the home secretary be instructed to bring these recommendations to the attention of the members of the academy and the chairmen of the trust funds.

That members of the academy be requested to contribute their own papers to the *Proceedings*.

That the policy of requiring each recipient of a grant for any research from any of the special funds to publish an account of the results of the researches under the grant in the *Proceedings* be approved.

That the academy request the committees and trustees of the several trust funds of the academy from which grants are made that whenever accounts of researches under grants are published in the *Proceedings* there shall be paid over from the trust fund out of which the grants are made, to the *Proceedings* account, if such action is permissible under the terms of the bequest, a sum of money to cover the expense of the publication.

A report was received from the finance committee of the *Proceedings*, signed by C. B. Davenport, chairman, F. R. Lillie and Raymond Pearl, as follows:

The estimated net cost of the *Proceedings* for 1918 is $5,600.

The estimated income is as follows:

From subscriptions (provided each member of the academy becomes responsible for one subscription)	$1,800
One third guarantee fund of $2,500	833
Estimated income of Billings Fund	187
Sundry other income (members dues, $850; N.R.C., $400; Dr. Walcott, special, $100)	1,350
Total estimated income	$4,170
Total estimated deficit	$1,430

If recommendation of the editorial board that space for reports of special grants in *Proceedings* be specially paid for be adopted, this deficit will be reduced to $1,200.

The committee plans to raise funds to meet this deficit.

SQUAW ISLAND, NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM RESERVATION

THE New York State Museum, which has already taken over, with the aid of appreciative citizens, several interesting properties in the state of New York for the purpose of recording and conserving their geological attractions, has recently come into possession of Squaw Island in Canandaigua Lake. The spot is of special geological interest from the fact that the island is made up of deposits of algal lime concretions or "water-biscuit" formed by the precipitation of lime carbonate through the activity of growing algæ which coat the shale pebbles of the beaches. A brook flowing in from the north over the limestone region brings waters that are well saturated with lime carbonate, and these waters washing against the barrier of Squaw Island have the excess of carbon dioxide stolen away by the growing algae so that the lime carbonate precipitates immediately upon the beach material and in this way the so-called water-biscuits are built up contemporaneously with the growth of the algæ. These algal lime balls, on solution in acid, leave behind a matted felt of algal threads of the same size as the hardened ball showing contemporaneous growth and activity throughout the period of deposition. Squaw Island has become well known to students of paleontology for the light these water-biscuits have thrown upon the formation of the great algal reefs such as the Cambrian Cryptozoon ledges of New York and the Pre-cambrian Algal ledges which have recently been described by Walcott from the Rocky Mountains.