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THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT¹

By Dr. FRANK R. LILLIE

MAY I take this opportunity of repeating what I have already said to the president of the university, how much the National Academy of Sciences appreciates this opportunity of meeting in Charlottesville as guests of the University of Virginia; and how very grateful we are for the hospitality of the university, its faculty and friends of Charlottesville and Virginia.

I would like to use my advantage as president of the academy to answer the very ancient and still natural question, "What is thine occupation and of what people art thou?"

As a corporate body the academy is seventy-two years old. It is the only scientific body that operates under a charter from the Congress of the United

States, and which therefore reports directly to Congress itself. Under its charter it has control of its own membership and property, but is pledged "whenever called upon by any department of the government, to investigate, examine, experiment and report upon any subject of science or art." It necessarily has its headquarters in Washington.

To fulfil its obligations it is necessary that the academy should be broadly and strongly representative of the scientific personnel of the country; indeed, the effort to meet this necessity has determined the membership policies of the academy from its foundation: thus the division of the academy into eleven sections representing the principal divisions of science and technology to ensure breadth; and the limitation of members to secure individual and corporate

¹ Given at the dinner of the National Academy of Sciences, Charlottesville, Va., November 19, 1935.

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- R. M. BETHKE, W. E. KRAUSS, P. R. RECORD and O. H. M. WILDER. The comparative antirachitic efficiency of vitamin D in irradiated milk, metabolized (yeast) milk, and cod liver oil.
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