

Society. Dr. Campbell, who has been a regular member of the society for twenty-five years, becomes the fifth botanist to receive this honor during the fifty years' existence of the society, the others being Dr. Carl Christensen, of Denmark; Professor Frederick Orpen Bower, of England; Professor Willard Nelson Clute, of Butler University, Indiana, and Dr. Campbell E. Waters, of Washington. Professor Campbell began his fern work with a research problem on the common sensitive fern, *Onoclea*, fifty years ago.

The American Fern Society is about to celebrate fifty years of activity relating to ferns. While its official organization and first publication date from 1893, forty-nine years ago, there had been a preliminary gestational period of a year or two before that, during which its nineteen charter members perfected the plans which led to its birth as the "Linnaean Fern Chapter" of the Agassiz Association, and later to an adolescent change into "The American Fern Society." Drs. Waters and Clute have been members for half a century.

From its start with nineteen charter members, the Fern Society has grown to a present membership of over four hundred, comprising fern students from many different professions and walks of life. During 1941, the society's publication, the *American Fern Journal*, completed its thirty-first volume with Dr. W. R. Maxon, of the Smithsonian Institution, as its editor-in-chief. Preceding him, C. A. Weatherby, of the Gray Herbarium, served as editor for a period of twenty-six years. Publication headquarters of the journal are at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, which also houses its herbarium and library. Before the *Journal* was started (1910), the society sponsored the *Fern Bulletin*, which was edited through twenty volumes by Willard N. Clute.

THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

SINCE 1937 the American Philosophical Society has been holding a general meeting in the month of February, at which meetings such topics have been considered as the "Administration of Funds in Aid of Research," the "Publication of Research," "The Centenary of the Wilkes Exploring Expedition," "The Life and Work of Alexander Dallas Bache" and the "Centenary of Geomagnetism in America."

It is proposed to devote the midwinter meeting on February 13 and 14 to the "Early History of Science and Learning in America" with especial reference to the part played by the American Philosophical Society, which this year completes its bicentenary. At present the program includes the subjects and speakers given below:

Mathematics, Frederick E. Bransch, Library of Congress.

Astronomy, S. A. Mitchell, University of Virginia.
 Physics, W. F. Magie, Princeton University.
 Chemistry (Joseph Priestley), Detlev W. Bronk, University of Pennsylvania.
 Engineering, Dugald C. Jackson, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
 Meteorology, W. J. Humphreys, U. S. Weather Bureau.
 Agriculture, M. L. Wilson, under-secretary, United States Department of Agriculture.
 Botany, M. L. Fernald, Harvard University.
 Natural History (Benjamin Smith Barton as naturalist), Francis Pennell, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.
 Entomology, Philip P. Calvert, University of Pennsylvania.
 Geology and Geophysics, Bailey Willis, Stanford University.
 Paleontology, George G. Simpson, American Museum of Natural History.
 Medicine, Francis R. Packard, Philadelphia.
 The American Indian, Clark Wissler, American Museum of Natural History.
 Education, Merle M. Odgers, Girard College.
 Michaux and His French Associates, Gilbert Chinard, Princeton University.

This program should prove of unusual interest not only because of the subjects and speakers announced, but also because the theme of this meeting has been proposed as the field which should be especially cultivated by our library. This meeting should enable us to assess the present value of our library in this field and to learn of the gaps which should be filled if it is to be an important aid in this department of historical research.

As usual the society will provide hotel entertainment for non-resident members and specially invited guests.

EDWIN G. CONKLIN,
Executive Officer

OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

A FULL account of the Dallas meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the scientific societies associated with it, edited by the permanent secretary, will be printed in the issue of SCIENCE for February 6.

Officers for 1942 were elected as follows:

President

Dr. Arthur H. Compton, University of Chicago.

Vice-presidents and Chairmen of the Sections

Mathematics (A): Marshall H. Stone, Harvard University.
Physics (B): A. J. Dempster, University of Chicago.
Chemistry (C): J. H. Hildebrand, University of California, Berkeley.