powered agricultural land, such as these rich prairie soils. It is recognized by the erosion specialists that many millions of acres of land now in cultivation are so steep and erosive that it is futile to continue their use along lines of present agricultural practise. These lands must be taken out of the clean-tilled crops, under which wastage of soil by erosion is most rapid. They must either be planted to trees or soil-saving, thick-growing crops, such as alfalfa, grasses and clover, or protected from grazing long enough for voluntary growth of weeds and grasses to take care of the problem.

THE TENNESSEE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

THE thirty-third meeting of the academy was held on Friday and Saturday, December 1 and 2, at the George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, Tenn. Discussion of the Tennessee Valley Development was the chief feature of the meeting. A symposium on "The Tennessee Valley Development Project" constituted the program for the Friday afternoon session, as follows:

"The Geological Phases of the Project," by Dr. Walter F. Pond, state geologist, Nashville.

"Transportation and Other Geographical Problems," by Dr. Albert E. Parkins, George Peabody College.

"General Engineering Features," by Professor Fred J. Lewis, Vanderbilt University.

"Agricultural and Sociological Aspects," by Dr. Kary C. Davis, George Peabody College.

The subject of the academy address on Friday evening, by Dr. Walter D. Cocking, Tennessee state commissioner of education, was "The Educational Implications of the Tennessee Valley Authority."

At the business meeting on Saturday, amendments to the constitution and by-laws were adopted, providing for the management of the Reelfoot Lake Biological Station by a director and a board of trustees chosen by the executive committee.

Resolutions were adopted approving the presentation of the Tugwell bill for adequate control of the advertising claims and the contents of proprietary medicines, and the general plans for the development of the work of the Tennessee Valley Authority and its freedom from political guidance and its efforts toward enlivening the social order and improving the industrial, natural and educational resources of the South.

The president, Dr. Francis G. Slack, presided at the sessions on Friday morning and afternoon, and the vice-president, Dr. Charles W. Davis, on Friday evening and Saturday morning.

Officers for the year 1933–1934 are:

President, Walter F. Pond, Tennessee state geologist, Nashville.

Vice-president, George M. Hall, professor of geology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Secretary-treasurer, John T. McGill, professor emeritus of organic chemistry, Vanderbilt University, Nashville.

Editor, Jesse M. Shaver, professor of biology, George Peabody College, Nashville.

The librarian is Miss Eleanor Eggleston, Vanderbilt University. Dr. A. Richard Bliss, Jr., director of the research laboratories of the William A. Webster Company, Memphis, will be the director of the Reelfoot Lake Biological Station. The secretary-treasurer of the academy, Dr. John T. McGill, was elected to represent the academy at the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Boston, December 27, 1933. The spring meeting of the academy for 1934 will be held at Knoxville.

THE WORK OF PROFESSOR WILLIS LINN JEPSON

PROFESSOR WILLIS LINN JEPSON, of the department of botany of the University of California, was recently appointed faculty lecturer for 1934.

Professor Jepson is a native of California and an alumnus of the University of California, having been born in Vacaville, on August 19, 1867, and having rereceived the degrees of bachelor and doctor of philosophy in 1889 and 1899. His first appointment to a teaching post came in 1891, when he became a student assistant in the university.

In announcing his appointment the academic senate outlined his contributions as follows:

Beginning as a boy, and later under Edward Lee Greene, he has devoted himself to a study of the flora of California. He established the journal *Erythea*, for the expression of ideas and discoveries in California botany. He has published innumerable shorter articles dealing with various aspects of the botany of the state, taxonomic, morphologic and distributional. His more considerable contributions began with his first edition of his book, "Flora of Western Middle California." His next undertaking was to bring together the flora of the entire state, which meant a laborious monographic study of every genus of flowering plant in the state. Outstanding in this series of monographs were those on Allium, Eriogonum, Arctostaphylos, Godetia and the family Umbelliferae. His work on the genus Eschscholtzia is regarded as a classic in the handling of difficult polymorphic genera. The preliminary draft of these studies resulted in the publication of the "Manual of Flowering Plants of California." Meanwhile, the monographic work has been appearing in parts, as "The Flora of California." This work is still going on, and although a considerable number of parts have been published, the manuscript already prepared and awaiting publication will greatly extend this monumental work.

Professor Jepson has concerned himself not only with the flora of California in general. His name will ever