has been given for a junior audience, and this feature of the annual meeting has proved so popular that admission has had to be by cards distributed through the science departments of the schools, to keep the audience within the limits of size made necessary by the nature of the display itself.

An innovation this year in connection with the Junior Academy movement was an exhibit of models, demonstrations, collections and dissertations by members of the high-school science clubs. This was kept open throughout the two days of the annual meeting.

High in importance among the items of business transacted at the annual meeting was the election of Dr. Robert Glenk, formerly curator of the Louisiana State Museum, and Dr. Isaac Monroe Cline, formerly in charge of the New Orleans office of the Weather Bureau, to the grade of honorary member. Honorary membership in the New Orleans Academy is not an honor conferred upon persons residing at a distance, but a special form of life membership bestowed upon active members by vote of the entire academy, in recognition of their services to science and to the academy itself. Both Dr. Glenk and Dr. Cline are past presidents of the academy and have for many years been outstanding members of the group of scientists residing in New Orleans. Honorary members previously elected are Dr. Rudolph Matas and Dr. Brandt Van Blarcom Dixon.

Fifty-six active members and twenty-two associates were elected in connection with the annual meeting, bringing the total membership of the academy to 221, as follows: Honorary, 4; life, 1; active, 185; associate, 31.

The officers elected for 1936–1937 are: *President,* Dr. Ernest Carroll Faust, Tulane University; *Vice-President,* K. A. Maring, S.J., Loyola University; *Secretary,* Philip C. Wakeley, National Forest Service; *Treasurer,* Dr. D. S. Elliott, Tulane University.

Dr. Howard R. Mahorner, recipient of the 1935 grant in aid of research made by the American Association for the Advancement of Science through the New Orleans Academy, reported briefly on his critical checking of hitherto accepted factors resulting in goiter, a study made possible at this time by the grant.

PHILIP C. WAKELEY,
Secretary

REPORTS

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH OF THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY[1]

IN view of the fact that three years have passed since the society authorized the establishment of the committee on research and since previous annual reports have not been published, it seems advisable at this time to review the work of these three years and to summarize the results. The charter under which this committee is acting is contained in the following resolution recommended by the committee on policy and adopted by the society at the general meeting, April 20, 1933: "*Resolved,* that a Standing Committee of at least five members representing the several fields of knowledge be appointed by the Council to make recommendations in regard to appropriations for the advancement of knowledge through investigation." On June 14, 1933, the council appointed the following members of this committee: Roland S. Morris, *president,* Edwin G. Conklin, *vice-president,* John A. Miller, *secretary,* President Karl T. Compton, Professor James T. Young. At the same time the council authorized the finance committee to include in the budget the sum of $50,000 a year for grants in aid of research.

The committee organized with Dr. Conklin as chairman, and early in 1934 adopted a series of general principles and rules defining its purposes and plan of operation, a blank form of application for grants, and a form of agreement to be entered into by each recipient of a grant. These were printed and submitted to the society at its general meeting in 1934, and they have been in use ever since.

President Compton and Professor Young found it necessary to retire from the committee after nearly two years of faithful and often laborious service, and their places have been taken by Dr. W. F. G. Swann and Secretary William E. Linglebach. Dr. Hugh S. Taylor and Dr. Isaiah Bowman were added to the committee one year ago.

Since its organization the committee has met every two months from October to June, inclusive. Applications and supporting recommendations are manifolded and sent to each member of the committee several days before the stated meeting at which they are to be considered. The members of the committee have taken their duties seriously and in some cases have interviewed the applicants or some of their sponsors in attempting to assess the merits of the applications. Whenever the committee has been in doubt about the merits of a particular application, it has sought and obtained the advice of scholars expert in that field; the committee is deeply indebted to the many persons who have thus aided it.

The total number of applications received and considered by the committee since its organization is 214, and the total amount requested was nearly $400,000. Somewhat more than 100 applications were

[1] Presented at the general meeting of the society April 24, 1936.

received during the first two years, and slightly less than 100 during the past year.

Each year since the organization of this committee, the finance committee, on recommendation of the council, has budgeted a specific sum for grants in aid of research. In 1933 this sum was $20,000, in 1934 $45,000, in 1935 $60,000, in 1936 $50,000. There has thus been placed at the disposal of the committee on research, for the four years named, a total sum of $175,000.

Altogether 98 grants have been made of an aggregate sum of $147,670. Of this sum $125,467.41 has been actually paid out, while $22,202.59 is still in the hands of the treasurer awaiting distribution to applicants. Miscellaneous expenses have amounted to $225.96, leaving a balance for distribution during the remainder of 1936 of $27,104.04.

The distribution of these grants to the various fields of learning is shown in Table I.

TABLE I

Field	Grants	Amount
Mathematics	1	$ 1,500
Astronomy	10	17,250
Physics	14	21,500
Chemistry	6	8,500
Engineering	2	4,000
Geology, Paleontology, Oceanography	9	11,975
Botany	14	16,150
Zoology	16	13,350
Physiology and medicine	9	11,700
Psychology	2	1,925
Philology	3	6,300
History	1	1,400
Archeology	5	14,850
Ethnology	1	2,000
Political economy	2	6,850
Literature	2	8,000
Biological Abstracts	1	3,500
Total	98	$149,750
Refunded from various grants		2,080 = $147,670

The committee has attempted to follow up the work of recipients of grants by requesting a semi-annual report of progress, by publication of some of these reports in the American Philosophical Society's *Miscellanea,* and by presentation of some of the more interesting reports at certain sessions of the general meeting, or at some of the monthly meetings of the society. Owing to the crowded character of the program at the general meeting in April it is not possible to make place for many papers from recipients of grants; consequently the committee on research has proposed and the council has approved the holding of an autumn meeting, probably on the Friday and Saturday following Thanksgiving Day, at which meeting reports on work aided by grants from the Penrose Fund would form a principal though not an exclusive part of the program. Such a general autumn meeting is needed not only to acquaint the society and the public with what is being done by the society in the promotion of research, but also to afford an additional opportunity for the scattered members of the society to come together. The National Academy of Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and several other nation-wide societies hold two or more general meetings each year, and this serves to keep up the active cooperation of members and to stimulate the interest of the general public in the promotion of knowledge. It is proposed that the American Philosophical Society make the same generous provision for the free entertainment in Philadelphia of non-resident members and invited speakers at this autumn meeting as is now in force at the spring meeting.

The question will certainly arise in the minds of some members, if it does not come to open expression, as to whether the results of researches supported by the society are worth all that they have cost. The committee has exercised care in the choice of projects to be supported, but undoubtedly some of these have yielded much more valuable results than others. It is in the very nature of research that the results can not be foreseen. In the main the committee has preferred to support projects which are already under way and where the chances of success are great. Many grants have been in the nature of emergency support of work which would have been permanently or temporarily abandoned but for such support. With a single exception grants have not exceeded $5,000, and the average size has been $1,500. The committee believes that with the funds at its disposal it can accomplish more good by making relatively small grants to a large number of persons than by the reverse process. It is true that this method may not make so impressive a show as would the support of a few large projects, but by distributing funds widely there is less risk of making great mistakes, and furthermore if we were to concentrate on a few large projects we would necessarily leave out many fields of research which are represented in the membership of the society. In further favor of these grants of moderate size is the fact that they fill a gap between the larger grants of the great foundations and the smaller ones of the National Research Council and some other organizations. It has been suggested that our society should establish research fellowships of a kind similar to those of the National Research Council. Certainly our present plan of making grants for research should not be regarded as permanently fixed. We should continually study to find the best means for promoting knowledge and the committee on research will welcome suggestions as to feasible ways of improving this work of the society.

EDWIN G. CONKLIN,
Chairman