

The membership has grown from fifty in 1900 to over one thousand in 1921. The Society has tasted the joy that springs from labor, and perhaps its greatest achievement has been the establishment of the JOURNAL and ABSTRACTS which are to our workers ports and happy havens indeed. Further achievements of happy memory and daily use to the teacher and investigator are the Society's card, the standard methods of many routine proceedings; some order out of the chaos of bacteriological nomenclature; and the commencement of work on standardizing materials and methods.

The recital of the past is an augury for the future. Can we, at this time, suggest a policy for our Society? Are we able to plan a coöperation of efforts which will interest all members, for each to give something of himself for the good of the Society, and for the benefit of human life and effort?

"The keen spirit seizes the prompt occasion—makes the thought start into instant action, and at once plans and performs, resolves and executes."

May I, therefore, take this opportunity of placing before you a few thoughts regarding the future.

#### I. STEADY CAMPAIGN FOR MEMBERSHIP, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT WHERE POSSIBLE OF LOCAL BRANCHES

Thanks to the activity of Dr. Ayers and his committee, there has been this year a large increase in membership. But we must have more, if the plans outlined for a larger journal are to be carried out; a large membership is fundamental and when obtained many other things will follow in consequence.

We have started a number of local branches. No scheme offers better prospects of success for keeping the interest in the Society between annual meetings. Every endeavour should be made to increase these local organizations for, besides interest, they afford opportunity for social meetings, arouse a feeling of professional solidarity and permit of more frequent contributions to our science. Further, by enlarging the field from which members are drawn, the danger of narrow specialization is avoided, and members of the local branches will be given a broader outlook.