

With the writer's compliments.
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OUR SOCIETY¹

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INTRODUCTION

The constitution of our Society states that the object of the Society shall be the promotion of the science of bacteriology, the bringing together of American bacteriologists, the demonstration and discussion of bacteriological methods, and the consideration of subjects of common interest: Thus, in accord with other scientific societies, its ultimate object is to make life a better thing than it is, to help in the service of man, and to attempt in some small measure to attain what Aristotle in Book III of *The Republic* has expressed that:

Our youth will dwell in a land of health, amid fair sights and sounds and receive the good in everything; and beauty, the effluence of fair works, shall flow into the eye and ear like a health giving breeze from a pure region and insensibly draw the soul from earliest years into likeness and sympathy with the beauty of reason.

To accomplish these benefits, our work lies ready to our hands, but our strength may be the greater and our faith the firmer if we spare a moment from present toils to look back upon the achievements of the past, to gather strength and encouragement before confronting the future.

The Society was founded in 1900, under the presidency of the late Prof. W. T. Sedgwick, a great teacher, an inspiring investigator and a kindly spirit that radiated good will and courteous consideration to others. In the two decades just past the Society has increased in stature and in wisdom and in favor with fellow workers.

¹ Address of the President at the Twenty-third Annual Meeting of the Society of American Bacteriologists.