

THE AUTHOR'S COLUMN

CANADIAN SOCIETY OF AUTHORS.

ON February 6 the Canadian Society of Authors held their first annual meeting in the Parliament Buildings at Toronto. The attendance was small.

The report of the secretary, Prof. Edgar, mentioned the publication of a bibliography as one of the chief features of the year.

It was decided to tender, if possible, a reception to Sidney Lee, the distinguished author of the "Dictionary of National Biography," on his visit to Toronto about two months hence to lecture at the University.

The following officers were elected for the year, the only changes being the addition of the names of Sir James Lemoine and Miss Machar as vice-presidents, and Mr. James on the



CHARLES G. D. ROBERTS.

executive: hon. president, Prof. Goldwin Smith, D.C.L., president, Hon. Geo. W. Ross, LL.D., vice-presidents, Dr. Bryce, Winnipeg, Dr. Drummond, Montreal, Dr. Frechette, C.M.G., Montreal, Hon. J. W. Longly, Halifax, Duncan Campbell Scott, F.R.S.C., Ottawa, Sir James Lemoine, Quebec, Miss Agness Maule Machar, Kingston, secretary, Prof. Pelham Edgar, Ph.D., treasurer, John A. Cooper, LL.B., executive, James Bain, Junior, J. Castall Hopkins, O. A. Howland, Bernard McEvoy, Macdonald Oxley, J. S. Willison, B. E. Walker, Prof. Davidson, Prof. Lefroy, Prof. Mayor, C. C. James.

LONDON LITERARY NOTES.

ONE of the most luxurious and extraordinary sets of books ever published, is promised by Sproul of Covent Garden. It is to be known as the "Autograph" Dickens and will appear in 50 volumes to be sold at 25 apiece. The edition will contain 5,000 illustrations, each accompanied by the

artist's autographs. The introductions will be supplied by prominent litterateurs.

Sidney Lee left England on January 21 for the United States, where he will lecture at various American universities.

It is announced that Sir Leslie Stephens is to contribute to the Atlantic Monthly a group of reminiscent papers, dealing with Englishmen of letters of the last half century.

William le Queux has just completed a serial for Chamber's Journal for 1904. It is entitled the "Closed Book."

Gibbings & Co. are bringing out a series of books called "The Classics in Burlesque." These books have long been out of print.

Rev. John Watson (Ian MacLaren) has been prohibited by his medical advisers from engaging in any literary work for some time to come.

The publishing house of Newnes, London, are to launch another magazine in the Spring.

Dr. Charles Douglas, M.P. for Northwest Lancashire, has written a memoir of his brother, the late Professor Halliday Douglas, of Knox College, Toronto.

Death has removed a familiar figure in the literary world in the person of Edna Lyall, or, more correctly, Ada Ellen Bayly, who passed away at Eastbourne on February 9. Her first book, "Won by Waiting," appeared in 1879, since when she has contributed many volumes to current literature.

WITH CANADIAN AUTHORS.

Sir Gilbert Parker arrived in New York on January 19.

Charles G. D. Roberts has accepted the invitation of the Canadian Club, of Toronto, to speak on Canadian Literature at a banquet to be given on February 26.

The Canadian poet and author, W. Wilfred Campbell, of Ottawa has sustained a serious loss in the disappearance in the mails of the manuscript of a novel, which he was sending to some English publishers.

H. F. Gadsby's estimate of Sir Gilbert Parker in The Toronto Star for January 24, was one of the cleverest and most entertaining character-sketches of a living author that has appeared for a long time.

Rev. William Burgess, once a resident of Toronto, but now of Battle Creek, Mich., was so unfortunate as to have the manuscript of his book entitled "The Bible in Shakespeare" destroyed in a fire. Mr. Burgess had just completed the work after spending 12 years on it.

A. A. Gard, author of the "Wandering Yankee," has returned to Montreal after spending a few weeks at his home in Maryland.

Rev. Charles W. Gordon (Ralph Connor), is to visit Scotland this year. Scottish papers are expressing pleasure at the prospect.

J. S. Willison's "Laurier," in Morang's Statesmen of Canada series is announced to be almost ready for publication. The first copies will be issued in handsome de luxe style.

Dr. Thomas O'Hegan, the Canadian author has left for the Pacific coast, where he has been engaged to deliver 40 lectures.