

from this national association. Let us consider where we stood fifteen years ago, and we can easily note the advancement we, as a profession, have made. The annual conventions have been a benefit direct and far-reaching to those who have attended regularly, and many others own the good effect of their influence, although indirectly applied. Who, then, is there among us who will say that the aim of this association has fallen short of its mark? But let us turn our attention for a moment upon the present, and will we not find that our government, once so efficient, is not adapted to the spirit of the times? State associations are now the order of the day, and personally I earnestly hope to see the time when each state can boast a live and flourishing association within her boundary. The duties which we, as the national association, owe to the state associations, and the best method of discharging those duties will be presented for your consideration in a revision of the constitution, which, I trust, you will give your most careful and unprejudiced attention. I will not here go into details. Sufficient it is to say that the main idea is the amalgamation of the State societies into a grand national association, meeting once in three years, if you, aided by the State associations, deem it wise to make this change.

"This departure once made we may look far into the future, and though we paint it in glowing colors of the modern impressionist, I predict that we shall be in no wise disappointed, for the P. A. of A. will be a staunch ally of the State associations and

vice versa. Before leaving this topic let me add the suggestion that some radical difference be made in our method of handling prizes. If we have a triennial convention, as the new plan recommends, let there be a grand prize offered, for which photographers of each State will first compete—the winner in each state competition being thus entitled to enter the lists of the national competition. Each operator, with the odds thus doubled against him, would be spurred to new effort, and the resulting pictures be immeasurably improved. This, however, is but a suggestion.

"The social side of our meetings not only helps us on to warmer individual friendships, but it engenders in us a pride in our profession, a strong desire to raise that profession to the highest place among the world's occupations. I know that, in the light of the warm and helpful friendships already established, there is no need for me to impress upon you the benefits of our social life. As I look over this assembly and think of the many warm and pleasant friends those conventions have brought me, I can heartily say it is good to be here, and I am confident that you will all join me in the words. I thank you."

The financial statement was read and adopted. It showed the receipts to have been \$4,784.56, and the expenditures \$3,795.

Delegate Wallin wanted to debar trade manufacturers from voting for judges, but after a brief discussion the matter was laid over.

At the Tuesday evening session an exhibition of stereopticon views was