

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

less interested in our work. Our associate members a few weeks ago decided to double their membership in order to raise funds to keep the rooms open for three afternoons each week during the year. Their energetic action in this matter is worthy of all praise. We look back with feelings of the liveliest satisfaction to what the ladies have accomplished since they began to interest themselves actively in the society's work, and we look forward with hope to what they may accomplish in the future.

In this connection I would like to refer again to the Davenport society. I find there this suggestive record:

"The election of a school boy to membership in a scientific society might seem to mean little, but to the Davenport academy it meant much. One of the charter members of the academy, Prof. Pratt, was writing teacher in the public schools, giving instruction from building to building. At times he told the scholars to write anything they might have in mind on slips of paper and to hand them in to him. On one such occasion a boy not fourteen years of age wrote the words 'Davenport Academy of Natural Sciences.' On inquiry, Prof. Pratt found that the boy had read of the academy in the newspapers, and wanted to know what it was. When told of the meetings and collecting excursions he desired to become a member, but only if his mother could become one also. The question of lady members had not before been raised, but now posed it was soon solved. J. Duncan Putnam and his mother were elected to membership June 2, 1869. The ardent enthusiasm of the school boy and the mother's love were to do more for the academy than the few members voting at that meeting could realize. It was this mother's interest that led to the second rented room, to the donation by ladies in 1875 of new cases and carpets, to the gift by a woman in 1877 of the lot, and to much of the energy and interest displayed by the townspeople since. It was the boy's enthusiasm and the mother's love that led to the publication. Impelled by Dr. Parry's words and his own feeling of its importance, J. Duncan Putnam on November 26, 1875, then a boy of nine-

teen, urged the academy to publish Proceedings. A committee was appointed to look into the matter, and to devise means if possible to carry out the plan. Dec. 20th a company of ladies—the Women's Centennial association—agreed to see that the first volume of Proceedings, covering the years 1867-75, should be printed. It was no easy task. Entertainments were given and other ways of raising money devised. A fire interfered seriously, but at last the handsome octavo volume was printed and turned over to the academy. The volume formed part of the display of women's work and achievement at the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia in 1876. The happy result of publication on the academy was immediately apparent. The Proceedings were sent to all parts of the world, and the library of the academy has grown almost entirely out of its exchange. The publication has not only benefited the scientific world by making known valuable original work, but it has made the academy widely known. The Proceedings have been continued up to the present time, and volume vii. is now in progress. * * * Mrs. Putnam's great desire since her son's death has been to see the publications continued. Her energy has never flagged, and finally she has seen the future of the Proceedings assured."

I have quoted this extract in full, not only on account of its suggestiveness, but also because to some extent our own society has aimed to carry out plans and purposes which the Davenport academy has pushed forward to completion with energy and dash that is characteristic of the west. The Davenport society has aimed to get the public schools interested in natural science, not only by its members giving lectures before teachers and scholars, but by having classes come to the museum to be instructed by the curator and other members. Our efforts have been in the same direction. To our regular and elementary lectures there has been for many years a good attendance of teachers and occasionally of pupils, and classes have been brought to the museum for instruction. We should now be able to do more in this direction than ever. If we can stimu-