

Retiring President's Address.

April 22, 1898.

My predecessor in office having established the custom of an address by the retiring president, it devolves upon me to keep up the good work, and to try to acquit myself of that duty. I can scarcely claim to reach to the high standard set by these former Presidents, nor shall I attempt it, and I hope you will bear with me this evening in the few remarks I will make touching the welfare of our Society.

The Applied Science Graduates' Society, after three years of existence, has now a membership of 140 graduates out of a total of 280 who have graduated since 1860. There are, however, only about 228 living graduates of Applied Science up to and including 1896. Many of these have drifted into other channels, and no longer follow scientific pursuits, so that we have enrolled nearly all the Applied Science graduates available for our ranks. If we examine the list of our graduates as far as we have the means of doing so from the information in the hands of our Secretary, we find the following disposition of the 228 living graduates up to and including 1896:

	per cent.
Graduates employed as Civil Engineers, including those on Railways, Bridges and municipal work.....	41.0
Graduates employed as mining engineers.....	17.0
" " in chemistry or allied pursuits.....	5.0
" " in electrical work.....	4.0
" " in business or mercantile pursuits other than engineering.....	13.0
Graduates whose positions are indefinite or of whom nothing is known.....	20.0
	100.0

Thus we find that of civil engineers, or taking the college classification of civil, mining and mechanical engineers, nearly 60 per cent. of our known graduates are following that branch. Twenty per cent. are following pursuits other than those pertaining to civil engineering, and the remaining twenty per cent. we know nothing of. This is a rough classification of our graduates, and it might be made more complete if our Non-resident Committee, over all parts of the continent, could gather further information of the graduates they hear of by engaging all to fill in history blanks to be returned to the Secretary.

During the past year we have been favored with several lectures by members of the Society. These lectures are no doubt an excellent means of promoting the closer relationship between the graduates, which is one of the aims of our Society. We should take steps to maintain the issuing of a regular journal of the Society's transactions. It would be the means of stirring up a more lively interest among the members, both resident and non-resident, in the work of