THE EARLY PRESIDENTS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION.*

I.

For a second time in its history the Section on Social and Economic Science in the American Association for the Advancement of Science has chosen for its presiding officer one whose early training was that of a chemist. It had been my hope to present before you an address that should treat of certain phases of the development of industrial chemistry in the United States. The suggestion, however, made at the midwinter meeting in New York by Professor Putnam, that I prepare an account of the early history of the Association, appealed to me so strongly that I was very glad to yield to the wishes of the Council, who promptly accepted the recommendation of our distinguished President, and, therefore, I have the honor of addressing you on The Early Presidents of the American Association.

HISTORY.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science came into formal existence in the city of Philadelphia, on September 20, 1848. The prevalent fondness for genealogical research affords us an ex-