ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

By Professor FRANK R. LILLIE
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Members and Friends of the National Academy of Sciences:

We welcome your presence at the annual dinner of the National Academy of Sciences, an occasion devoted to the charms of friendly intercourse and the conferring of such honorary awards of the academy as may fall due and be recommended by appropriate committees after careful investigation.

This is in no sense therefore a business meeting of the academy; but my distinguished predecessor, Dr. W. W. Campbell, director emeritus of the Lick Observatory and president emeritus of the University of California, created a precedent of speaking on the status of the academy on this occasion, which I have been requested by the committee in charge of arrangements for this meeting to continue.

At the last two annual dinners Dr. Campbell presented the history of the academy and emphasized especially the obligation that rests upon members of the academy under its congressional charter “whenever called upon by any Department of the Government to investigate, examine, experiment and report upon any subject of science or art” without any compensation whatever for such services.

May I, in my turn, remind you that this building is also the building of the National Research Council, and that the names of both the academy and the research council appear over its door. The National Research Council was organized by the academy in 1916 under its congressional charter, as a measure of national preparedness, at the request of President Wilson; and was perpetuated by the academy in 1918.