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THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATURAL SCIENCES IN CHINA¹

By Dr. AMADEUS WILLIAM GRABAU

THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CHINA

I AM deeply conscious of the honor which you, the foremost body of scientific men of my country, have conferred upon me.

That I have been able to take an active part in the development of the natural sciences in China has been due, in the first place, to the fact that my coming to Peking has coincided with the awakening of interest in, and desire for scientific education along western lines, among the Chinese intellectuals.

The Geological Survey of China had been founded a few years before, and it had but recently completed its first task—the training of a number of men in the fundamentals of geological science.

It was still housed in an old adapted and inade-

¹ Remarks on receiving the Mary Clark Thompson Medal of the National Academy of Sciences. Read by Mrs. Grabau in the absence of Dr. Grabau in China.

quately equipped compound, with a library consisting of a few hundred books, and a few drawers of Chinese Paleozoic fossils. But, new buildings were under construction, and under the energetic guidance of Drs. Chang, Ting and Wong, phenomenal progress was made in the equipment and acquisition of material and the investigation of Chinese geology. Dr. J. G. Andersson, foreign adviser to the Survey, had organized the scientific exploitation of the important deposits of fossil vertebrate remains and the study of these was undertaken by foreign paleontologists.

To me was assigned the study of the Chinese invertebrate fossils, while my task at the university has been the training of young Chinese paleontologists and stratigraphers.

Through the efforts of Dr. Andersson a fund had been provided to begin the publication of the Paleon-

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