ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY

By Sir WILLIAM BRAGG, O.M.

The tragic happenings of these times have necessarily had their effect on the activities of the society. On the outbreak of war, the offices were moved—as had been decided sometime beforehand—to Trinity College, Cambridge, and I take this opportunity of expressing the gratitude of the society for the hospitality which we have found there. We could not have wished, if we were to be in exile, any greater happiness than to be housed in the college of Isaac Newton and many another of our fellows, past and present. Many of our irreplaceable possessions were removed to places of safety.

The meetings for the reading of papers have been suspended temporarily, but their early resumption is possible, and will certainly take place if circumstances allow. The publication of papers has not been interr upted, though it has seemed well to place some limits on their length. Most of the other activities of the society, including the administration of funds for research, are proceeding as usual.

The council's report deals with the business of the society during the past year, and the second volume of "Notes and Records" tells of many other matters of interest. I am thereby relieved of the necessity of referring in this address to several subjects already considered. I propose to say a few words on the general position of the Royal Society at this special time. But first I would speak of the debt which the society owes to its retiring treasurer, Sir Henry Lyons. We owe to him the complete and valuable reform of our finances carried out during years when the monetary transactions and responsibilities of the society have been growing at a great rate; he has made welcome

1 Anniversary meeting, November 30, 1939.
Editor's Summary

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