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Address of the Chairman of the Social Science Research Council: DR. EDWIN B. WILSON 169

The American Institute of Physics: DR. HENRY A. BARTON and DR. GEORGE H. BURNHAM 172

Obituary:

Dr. Howard Atwood Kelly: DR. LEWELLYS F. BARKER. *Recent Deaths* 176

Scientific Events:

Pure Mathematics in Russia; New and Rare Instruments; Meteorological Training for the Army Air Forces; Philadelphia Meeting of the Industrial Research Institute; The American Institute of Electrical Engineers; Award of the Willard Gibbs Medal 178

Scientific Notes and News 180

Discussion:

What Price Glory? DR. WARREN T. VAUGHAN. *A Need for More Uniform Usage of Words of Indefinite Meaning:* FERDINAND JEHLE. *Avian Malaria:* DR. T. P. NASH 183

Scientific Books:

Differential Fertility: DR. WARREN S. THOMPSON 185

Special Articles:

Purification and Properties of the Second Antibacterial Substance Produced by Penicillium Notatum: DR. WALTER KOCHOLATY. *Some Chemical and Pharmacological Observations on "Low Nicotine" Tobacco:* DR. H. B. HAAG and DR. P. S. LARSON 186

Scientific Apparatus and Laboratory Methods:

Dry Stripped Replicas for the Electron Microscope: VINCENT J. SCHAEFER 188

Science News 10

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ADDRESS OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL¹

By Dr. EDWIN B. WILSON
HARVARD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

I AM very glad to greet the guests and members of the council assembling for our annual meeting in this historic building of the oldest, broadest and most distinguished learned society of our country and I have to express to the American Philosophical Society the thanks of the council for permitting us to gather here.

It was fifteen years ago come New Year's that the American Statistical Association elected me to the council. I have attended most of the fifteen annual and spring meetings since that time with pleasure and profit, and have missed the few others only for the most compelling reasons. There are some few connected with the council who have a longer record.

My experience over these fifteen years has con-

vinced me that our constituent societies are often quite ignorant of the aims and the opportunities of the council whose regular members they elect. Some of the societies seem at times to think they are sending us representatives whose duty it is to maintain close contact between us and their societies for their benefit. This certainly is not the case. It is not necessary and indeed it is scarcely possible that the council should be of any direct and immediate use to the individual constituent societies or to their individual disciplines. Those elected by the societies are here with the opportunity of viewing social science as a whole and of determining how best to serve it.

In the past fifteen years with which I am acquainted and in the preceding five of which I have heard the council has tried to help in a number of ways. When

¹ Given at the opening session of the annual meeting, held in Philadelphia, September 17, 1942.

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