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PROGRESS IN HORTICULTURAL SCIENCE¹

By Professor ARTHUR J. HEINICKE

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

THE American Society for Horticultural Science was organized some thirty-four years ago "more fully to establish horticulture on a scientific basis." At that time, the importance of scientific features in our profession was not so generally recognized, and there existed a definite need for stimulating activity in scientific research in the field of horticulture. The founders of our society entertained the hope that the technical papers presented at the meetings would be subject to close scrutiny, and they suggested, diplomatically, that this "would doubtless lead to a more complete investigation of some points imperfectly developed."

All of us will agree, I am sure, that some progress has been made during the third of a century of our existence, in realizing at least in part these objectives of our organization. The records of our annual proceedings give abundant evidence of this. There you

will also find periodic summaries of the accomplishments in special phases of horticulture.

By focusing attention on the scientific features of problems in our field, the American Society for Horticultural Science has undoubtedly helped to bring about a general and sympathetic understanding of the need for more complete and well-rounded investigation in all phases of plant science. We especially welcome the attention given by the botanical and physiological societies to our field. Naturally, we hope that they will continue to help us in our endeavor "more fully to establish horticulture on a scientific basis" by using horticultural material whenever it proves suitable in the study of fundamental problems. But above all, we must continue to look to them for the painstaking and diligent research needed for the discovery of an increasing number of fundamental facts of plant life in general. No one realizes more than does the horticulturist, who must deal intimately and effectively with

¹ Presidential address, American Society for Horticultural Science, Indianapolis, Ind., December 29, 1937.

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