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## ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY<sup>1</sup>

By Sir WILLIAM BRAGG

DIRECTOR OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTION

ACCORDING to our honored custom I preface this annual address by references to those of our fellows whom death has taken from us during the past year.

The past year has included many events which might well be mentioned in this annual address. One of them has, however, elbowed out most of the rest. The two numbers of *Notes and Records* which have begun a new enterprise contain interesting and informative accounts of our doings since last November. I believe that fellows have appreciated this social and intimate addition to the publications of the society, and that they will join with me in an expression of our gratitude to the officers who have produced it, and especially to the one who has on this, as on so many occasions, taken the lion's share of the work. The doings of the society

<sup>1</sup> Given at the anniversary meeting on November 30, 1938. The address also contained obituary appreciations of the fellows who died during the year.

are noted and recorded in this periodical more effectively than I could do in a presidential address.

I must now speak of an event which is surely uppermost in the minds of all who have received the nominations of council for next year. We are to lose the services of Sir Frank Smith. You may be surprised at his decision not to seek renomination when we would gladly have kept him for one more year. It happens, however, that two more of our officers must step down at the end of next year, and Sir Frank has pointed out that if three were to leave at one time the business of the society might be seriously affected. We can not, therefore, ask him to stay. We must take advantage of the opportunity thus given us to tell him how grateful we are for the work he has done for the society. His secretaryship has been distinguished by a rare exhibition of capable service. The place which the society fills in public life and its harmonious cooperation

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