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## ADDRESS OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL<sup>1</sup>

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

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

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