AGRONOMIC AFFAIRS.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER.

This report covers the period from January 1, 1919, to October 31, 1919, inclusive.

The decline in membership so noticeable in 1918 has extended in a somewhat modified form into 1919. The resignations and lapses from the non-payment of dues are still excessive, but partly to counterbalance these losses there have been more subscriptions and new members added than last year. It begins to appear to the Secretary-Treasurer that the unusual conditions resulting from the war and the high cost of living, which have adversely affected many scientific societies, are passing and that The American Society of Agronomy is back again on a stable basis.

One matter which I wish especially to call to the attention of the membership is the favorable notice given to the Society in foreign countries. This is evidenced by the continually increasing subscriptions to the Journal from foreign sources. Libraries of our own country, other than those of agricultural colleges and experiment stations which have hitherto made up the larger part of our subscription list, are more and more coming to recognize the merit of the Society and are not only subscribing for the Journal, but are purchasing complete sets of the back numbers of the Proceedings and of the Journal. This is a condition which should make us all justly proud and should spur us on to give still better service. Investigators with material to present to the agronomic profession can find no medium of communication where their papers will be more widely read at the present time and less likely to be buried from future investigators, than in the Journal of the American Society of Agronomy.

The Society started the year with a paid-up membership of 509. Since then, 52 new members have been added for 1919 and 2 for 1920, 16 have been reinstated, 1 has died, 25 resigned, and 80 have let their membership lapse for non-payment of dues. This leaves the Society with a paid-up membership of 473. In addition to this membership, there are 105 subscribers to the Journal, some of them for two or more copies.

A special effort was made to enlarge the membership by asking certain agronomists to solicit new members in their respective States. Several responded with a number of candidates for admission. It has been my experience that a formal request seldom gets a new member, but a personal appeal from a friend who is already a member is what is needed to increase our membership. In this connection I wish to commend the work of a number of agronomists who have helped much in the past in getting new members, especially W. C. Etheridge of Missouri, John H. Parker and L. A. Fitz of Kansas, L. H. Smith of Illinois, John R. Fain of Georgia, and J. F. Cox of Michigan. If all of the States were represented in the Society in proportion to their agronomic workers as are New York, Ohio, Georgia, Kansas, and Missouri, our membership would soon be considerably larger than it is now.

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