

EDITORIAL

The beginning of a new volume is an appropriate point at which to review past achievements and announce future plans. A brief outline of the history of the magazine will be given first. The first number appeared in July, 1916, and sample copies of it, as well as of the two succeeding ones, were distributed to everyone interested in mineralogy known to the editors. Enough subscriptions were soon received to guarantee the preliminary success of the enterprise, altho the close of the first volume, in December, 1916, found us with a considerable deficit on our hands. This was met by generous contributions from our friends and loans from some members of the editorial board.

The project of publishing the magazine having originated with the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society, three of its members were appointed, two as editors, and the third as business manager. Other mineralogical organizations were invited to appoint representatives, and the New York Mineralogical Club and the Mineral Collectors' Association designated their secretaries to act as editors. Mr. Wallace Goold Levison of the New York Club, being the senior member of the board of editors, was appointed by them editor-in-chief, but as he was unable to give much time to the magazine's affairs, Dr. Edgar T. Wherry acted as managing editor practically from the start, and has been responsible for the bulk of the editorial work. Mr. Samuel G. Gordon has looked after the obtaining of subscribers and advertisers, the mailing of the magazine, and the carrying on of most of the correspondence. Financial responsibility for the publication has, however, rested solely with the business manager.

There have been several subsequent changes in these arrangements. At the start of volume 2 Mr. Harry W. Trudell of the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society took over the business managership. At the close of this volume Mr. W. Scott Lewis, who represented the Mineral Collectors' Association, withdrew. Now, with the completion of the third volume, Mr. Levison has decided to retire. The remaining members of the board desire to express herewith, both for ourselves and on behalf of our readers, the deepest appreciation of his helpful suggestions, advice and assistance, in the development of the magazine. The former managing editor will hereafter assume the duties of editor-in-chief, and the editorial board will be increased by the appointment of seven new associate editors, as announced on the front cover page of this number.

From the outset we have never had the slightest difficulty in obtaining articles for publication; indeed, the problem has been rather to find room for everything submitted, our income having never become large enough to justify the publication of more than a limited number of pages per month. Volume 1 averaged 20 pages per number, but this proved to be more than we could afford, and we were reluctantly obliged to decrease this average to 13 in volume 2. A good-sized deficit still confronting us at the close of the latter volume,—cared for by loans from the Business Manager and the Managing Editor,—we were forced to decide between further curtailment of the size and an increase in the subscription price; and we chose the former as the lesser evil. The number of pages per ordinary number was accordingly reduced to

10, altho the year's average was raised to 17 by one special number. This has enabled us not only to pay expenses thruout the year, but even, with the assistance of friends, to reduce our deficit considerably. While at the beginning of volume 4 we will not be able to exceed this size, an increase is looked forward to in the near future, as the stabilization of world conditions brings increases in our subscription list and advertising columns.

As to subject-matter, we have endeavored to publish both popular and technical articles,—to promote mineralogy as a hobby as well as a science. A cordial invitation is extended to all of our readers to give us the benefit of their experiences in collecting and studying minerals. In our department, "Abstracts of mineralogic literature," we have made an effort to notice every article which might properly be regarded as mineralogical in character, giving especially full descriptions of all new minerals, appearing since the beginning of 1916. Articles on economic and petrologic subjects are included when they contain important new evidence bearing on problems of mineral constitution, genesis, etc. When the number of pages per number had to be diminished, we tried allotting only a page or two to these abstracts, but this soon led to our getting a year or more behind in noticing some articles, so toward the end of volume 3 we have assigned additional space to this department, and as a result it is now being rapidly brought up to date. Recent war activities have prevented or delayed our obtaining copies of many foreign publications, but we hope ultimately to include in our pages a complete account of all mineralogic work published since the beginning of 1916.

In conclusion, the undersigned desire to express their gratitude to subscribers, advertisers and friends who have so generously extended to us financial assistance and enabled us to continue publication in spite of adverse conditions in the past few years. With the beginning of volume 4 the AMERICAN MINERALOGIST may be said to have passed the experimental stage, and to be on the road to success.

E. T. W., S. G. G., H. W. T.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES

THE PHILADELPHIA MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY

WAGNER FREE INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, NOVEMBER 14, 1918

The Twenty-sixth Annual Meeting of the Philadelphia Mineralogical Society (postponed from October on account of the epidemic of influenza) was held on the above date with the president, Dr. Leffmann, in the chair.

The resignation of the secretary, Dr. Jones, was announced, and upon motion of the president, the former secretary, Mr. Samuel G. Gordon, was elected to the office.

Dr. Henry Leffmann presented his Presidential Address, on "The Oldest Manual of Mineralogy—Theophrastus, On Stones."

Mr. John G. Rothermel, Director of the Institute, described a trip to the Kutztown Cave, Berks Co., Pa. Mr. Gordon reported two trips to Middletown and Upper Providence, Delaware County, with negative results.

SAMUEL G. GORDON, *Secretary.*