

The Years of Growth and Aggressive Work

As was to be the case so often, action on the part of Secretary Miller highlighted the fifth annual meeting of the Academy held in East Radford and Blacksburg with Radford College and Virginia Polytechnic Institute serving as the host institutions on May 6-7, 1927. Miller reported that the Research Committee, which met in Richmond on October 9, 1926, had established a fifty-dollar research award.¹ Later, Dr. Donald W. Davis of William and Mary, acting chairman of the Research Committee, announced that the first award of fifty dollars in gold had been presented to Dr. C. C. Spiedel of the University of Virginia for his paper on "Regenerative Phenomena Under Conditions of Hyperthyroidism."² However, the University of Virginia, even though it could claim the first research award winner, for the first time since the 1923 meeting of the Academy had to share its domination of the program with another institution: scientists from Virginia Polytechnic Institute read 21 papers while those from the university read 22.

Miller recommended that the Academy, because of the large sum of money collected for the research endowment fund, seek incorporation from the Virginia State Legislature. President Horsley, who was responsible for raising the fund, appointed Miller chairman of a committee to work for the incorporation of the Academy. He also chose Dr. Earl Gregg Swem of William and Mary to head a committee charged with the responsibility of drawing up "suitable certificates," i.e., a seal, for the Academy.³

A motion offered by Dr. John H. Yoe of the University of Virginia in behalf of the Resolutions Committee was adopted by the Academy to the effect that a fifth section, to be known as the Section on Miscellaneous Topics, be established.⁴ There is no record of the Miscellaneous Topics Section's ever having met as a separate section to hear papers, nor was any mention made of its existence in ensuing copies of the *Proceedings*.

Dr. Sidney S. Negus of the Medical College of Virginia was nominated on a motion by Dr. Paul A. Warren of William and Mary to be the "publicity man" for the Academy.⁵ According to Dr. William G. Guy, chairman of the Department of Chemistry at the College of William and Mary since 1946 and president of the Academy (1957-58), Negus was the "best public relations man an organization ever had. It was the thoughtfulness of Sid Negus which distinguished him from other men. He can't be replaced."⁶

Secretary Miller had the final word on the 1927 convention when he noted in the *Proceedings* sometime after the annual meeting closed that "the first three years of the Academy were given up largely to growth. Having attained a membership of more than three hundred, and having become established as a needed and a successful institution, it is entirely appropriate that during this year, our fourth year, the Academy should have undertaken some lines of aggressive work." Specifically what Dr. Miller had in mind was the Academy's appointing committees to compile a flora of Virginia and encourage research in the state.⁷ Both were to justify the secretary's faith in "aggressive work."

The Academy returned to the site of its founding, Williamsburg, for its sixth annual meeting on May 4-5, 1928, when the College of William and Mary served as the host institution. The second Williamsburg meeting was marked by the successful completion of the work of both E. C. L. Miller's and Earl Gregg

¹ *Proceedings, 1926-1927*, 4.

² *Ibid.*, 11.

³ *Ibid.*, 7.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 9.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 11.

⁶ Interview with Dr. William G. Guy, Williamsburg, Va., July 1, 1966.

⁷ *Proceedings, 1926-1927*, 3.

Swem's committees. Miller reported that, with the minor exception of some slight extension of the purpose of the Virginia Academy of Science as stated in the constitution of the organization, the incorporation went through smoothly.⁸ Dr. Swem then submitted his report on the seal. The symbols for the seal were drawn in the main from the history of Virginia. The seal consisted of three concentric circles, forming two rings around an open area in the center of the seal. In the outer ring was inscribed "Virginia Academy of Science." Printed around the inner ring were the names of four of the Old Dominion's most outstanding scientists: John Clayton, Thomas Jefferson, Matthew Fontaine Maury, and Walter Reed. The circular area in the center of the seal was decorated with the state flower—dogwood in bloom at the top and a dogwood still in bud at the bottom. In the space remaining between the dogwood emblems the motto of the Academy, *Ignorantia supremus tyrannus*, was inscribed. Swem noted that the motto was suggested to him by the motto on the Virginia State Seal "Death to tyrants," and that, although the Virginia Academy motto meant "Ignorance is the greatest tyrant," it also implied, "Death to ignorance."⁹ The *Proceedings, 1927-1928* was the first Academy publication embossed with the new seal.

Two more sections were added to the Academy roster, the Geology Section¹⁰ and the Virginia Section of the Society of American Bacteriologists.¹¹ The bacteriologists joined through affiliation similar to that arranged in 1924 between the Academy and the Virginia Section of the American Chemical Society. The Bacteriology Section presented a full program at the 1929 meeting in Staunton, but was not active thereafter until 1942 when it was revived. More than one third of the papers read were prepared by men from the University of Virginia. Both William and Mary and Virginia Polytechnic sponsored 7 speakers, and the university 23.

Several resolutions came before the assembly. Miss Ida Sitler of Hollins College proposed that the Academy go on record in support of wildlife sanctuaries.¹² Miss Sitler's motion was carried as were two resolutions proposed by Dr. W. D. Hoyt of Washington and Lee. Hoyt won Academy support for a proposal which called for the State of Virginia to recognize scientific endeavor as a worthwhile state project and to lend its resources to the fostering and encouraging of such work. Also Hoyt recommended, and the Academy approved, that the Committee on the Preservation of Natural Resources set up in 1926 make a survey of the state for suitable areas of preservation; and, after locating such areas, to begin working immediately for the adoption of a conservation program.¹³

Obviously the meetings of the Executive Committee had begun to take on more significance as Secretary Miller recorded the minutes of the Council meeting for the first time and submitted them to the members in the *Proceedings, 1927-1928*,¹⁴ and also for the first time, Miller, as treasurer, was forced to acknowledge a deficit of \$58 for the year. Nevertheless, the Academy still had a \$500 balance.¹⁵

The president of the Academy was chosen by the delegates as their regular representative to the annual Christmas meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, with the secretary-treasurer being designated as the alternate.¹⁶ This procedure, however, was only to be in effect for one year, as it was destined to be altered to represent more realistically the organizational structure of the Academy.

Staunton Military Academy and the city of Staunton served as hosts of the seventh annual meeting in 1929. Dr. W. D. Hoyt's work with the Preservation of Natural Resources Committee came before the convention when Dr. Hoyt presented his report and then directed the meeting's attention to the fact that Goshen Pass, an area for whose conservation the committee had been actively engaged, was going to be dammed up and would serve as the site for a power plant. Several comments were made and resolutions adopted which called for the Virginia Academy to resist the planned project.¹⁷ The Academy and the Garden Clubs of Virginia subsequently combined to fight the hydroelectric project. Although there is no way to measure the effect of these two organizations, the fact is that there is still no dam at Goshen Pass.¹⁸

In the 1929 meeting the scientists revealed not only their regard for Virginia's scenic beauty, but also for their own pocketbooks. In meetings of both the Council and the general convention, the delegates opposed the imposition of a duty on imported scientific instruments. Dr. Garnett Ryland of the University

⁸ *Proceedings, 1927-1928*, 10-11.

⁹ *Ibid.*, 11.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 7.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, 22.

¹² *Ibid.*, 12.

¹³ *Ibid.*, 13.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 16.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 18.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 17.

¹⁷ *Proceedings, 1928-1929*, 13.

¹⁸ Jeffers, *History*, 115.

	of Richmond gave voice to the discontent when he and the Academy resolved: "That the Virginia Academy of Science protests against a higher duty on scientific apparatus and urges the restoration of the former privilege of duty-free importation of scientific supplies for educational and research institutions." ¹⁹ The Academy thus went on record in opposition to programs of both the State and Federal Governments.
¹⁹ <i>Proceedings, 1928-1929, 17.</i>	
	Dr. Miller was the central figure in two acts at this convention. Dr. Ryland moved that the secretary be paid a flat annual salary which would be more in keeping with the dignity of his office than the forty cents per member which accrued to him each fiscal year under the system in operation. ²⁰ A special session of the Council took this proposal under advisement and set the honorarium for the secretary's services at \$150 per annum. ²¹
²⁰ <i>Ibid., 22.</i>	
²¹ <i>Ibid., 15.</i>	
	Former President R. E. Loving of Richmond succeeded in convincing the Council to rescind the action it took at the 1928 meeting when it had appointed the president of the Academy as the regular delegate to the annual AAAS Christmas convention. This accomplished, Ryland again took the floor and recommended that the secretary be appointed as the regular Academy delegate to such conventions, and that the Academy pay \$75 to help cover the secretary's convention expenses. ²² This rearrangement was satisfactory to the members of the Academy. As Miller became ever more clearly the central figure in the Academy both the deference shown to him and his own myriad responsibilities increased.
²² <i>Ibid., 22</i>	
	Financial matters were the leading topic of discussion at the eighth annual meeting of the Academy which was held in Lynchburg on the campuses of Lynchburg College and Randolph Macon Woman's College, May 9-10, 1930. The Academy sought both to increase its own revenue and to equalize its dues payments since members of the Academy who were also members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science had their dues to the Academy raised from \$1.00 to \$1.50 annually at this meeting. It had been the practice of the Academy to charge AAAS members only \$1.00 dues while non-AAAS members were required to pay \$2.00, in order to encourage its members to join the national body, and also because the AAAS was in the habit of rebating fifty cents of its \$5.00 per member yearly dues to the local organization of its individual members. With this rebate in effect, the Academy, by raising the dues of its members of AAAS fifty cents, would be collecting the same amount of money, \$2.00, from both its single and dual members. ²³ The usual rebate of fifty cents per member, however, was not forthcoming from the AAAS in 1930. The depression, it appears, was making itself felt on the local scene as well. Dr. Miller was forced to report that an unusually high number of members failed to pay their dues to the Virginia Academy. ²⁴ One heartening note, however, was struck when it was announced that the Virginia State Legislature had made available \$1,000 of the \$2,000 requested to assist the Committee on the Flora of Virginia under the direction of Dr. Lewis. ²⁵
²³ <i>Proceedings, 1929-1930, 9.</i>	
²⁴ <i>Ibid., 3.</i>	
²⁵ <i>Ibid., 3.</i>	
	Plans concerning junior membership in the Academy were an important consideration at the ninth convention of the Virginia Academy held in Norfolk April 24-25, 1931. Miss Nan V. Thornton, who had recently been on the faculty of Randolph Macon Woman's College and who was, in 1931, associated with the University of Chicago, presented a report on junior membership. The Academy responded, on a motion by Dr. Paul A. Warren, by authorizing junior memberships in colleges at \$1.00 per year, and by voting to continue Miss Thornton in the chairmanship. ²⁶ As Dr. Jeffers has noted, Miss Harriet H. Fillinger of Hollins College served as the first functional head of the committee when Miss Thornton was absent from the state. ²⁷
²⁶ <i>Proceedings, 1930-1931, 16-17.</i>	
²⁷ Jeffers, <i>History</i> , 51.	
	Junior membership was not the entire story, however. Ivey F. Lewis proudly reported that the Committee on Flora had seen one of its major goals realized when in February 1931 it had published <i>Flora of Richmond and Vicinity</i> by Professor Paul R. Merriman of Fairport, New York. ²⁸ Dr. J. Shelton Horsley moved, and the Academy accepted the motion, to establish a new section to cover the fundamental medical sciences. ²⁹ This would be the Academy's eighth section, except that the Bacteriological and Miscellaneous Sections had never really materialized. On a motion by Dr. Donald W. Davis of William and Mary the Committee on Standard Seven of the Southern Association of Colleges and
²⁸ <i>Proceedings, 1930-1931, 18-19.</i>	
²⁹ <i>Ibid., 21.</i>	

Secondary Schools, which had been allowed to lapse, was reconstituted with Dr. W. A. Kepner of Virginia again the chairman.³⁰ At the 1931 meeting, for the first time in Academy history, three colleges sponsored 10 or more papers: University of Virginia (35), Virginia Polytechnic Institute (12), and William and Mary (10). In the preceding meeting university scientists read 46 of the 76 papers presented.

Financial matters were of somewhat more than passing importance at this 1931 meeting. Dr. Miller reported that only the most conservative spending program had allowed the Academy to show a favorable balance.³¹ It was also noted that plans once in the offing to get the American Association for the Advancement of Science to hold one of its annual conventions in Richmond had to be shelved because the depression had forced that city's Chamber of Commerce to abandon hope of raising the necessary \$7,000.³² And last but certainly not least, the 1931 program, as Dr. Jeffers pointed out, almost "surreptitiously" announced for the first time that tickets for the annual dinner would be on sale.³³ Indeed, the depression, if it failed to strike a mortal blow at the Academy as it had at so many other organizations, was, nevertheless, making life a little more uncomfortable than usual for Academy members.

The 1932 meeting of the Academy, its tenth, was held in Roanoke April 22-23 with Hollins College serving as host. Beginning at the Council meeting of this session, the secretary's annual report became a regular order of business on the Council's program.³⁴ The great duplication which had existed previously between the secretary's report and the president's annual report—or what the president often noted would have been his report if Dr. Miller had not said the same thing first—was somewhat lessened. The president, although he would not always choose to do so, now had the opportunity to address himself specifically to one particular issue instead of simply commenting upon the year's activities. This arrangement appears quite appropriate when one considers that it was the secretary who was in the best position to make the most complete report on the year's progress, especially since no one could rival Miller's great knowledge of the Virginia Academy.

Dr. Miller reported that the Academy was still in good financial shape and was showing no adverse effects from the general depression. The books were closed with a favorable balance of over \$1,000, which Miller accounted for by a net gain in membership and an unusually good year for dues paying.³⁵

Dr. W. A. Kepner of Virginia, whose Committee on Standard Seven had been reactivated a year earlier, submitted his report, which the convention endorsed. It called again for a recognition on the part of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools that an hour spent in laboratory work was equal to an hour spent in classroom recitation.³⁶

Dr. Garnett Ryland, ever watchful of the Academy's parliamentary procedure, offered an amendment to the effect that Section VIII of the constitution of the Academy be revised to allow for a seven-man Council by including the retiring president and a new officer, the president-elect, for one-year terms. The Academy accepted this amendment without dissent and also agreed unanimously when Ryland moved that a president-elect be chosen at the 1933 meeting.³⁷

Secretary-Treasurer Miller seemed again to have outmaneuvered the depression. He reported at the eleventh annual convention, held on the campus of Fredericksburg State Teachers College, now Mary Washington College, that the Academy had ended the fiscal year 1932-33 some \$60 in the red, but that the deficit appeared to be more the result of additional printing expenses, charged to fiscal 1931-32 for the abstracts of the sectional papers, which the Academy first included in the *Proceedings, 1930-1931*, than the result of the continuing depression.³⁸ Miller was also able to announce that the Academy was over the 700 mark in membership and that, whereas in 1932 there had been only 18 dues-paying junior members, now in 1933 there were 91.³⁹

Chairman Kepner submitted his report and supporting letters to the effect that the Virginia Academy's Committee on Standard Seven had managed, through an article in *Science*, the magazine of the AAAS, to bring the question of Standard Seven before a large number of vitally concerned individuals and groups. As well as seeking more information on the subject, most letters which Kepner received were in strong agreement with the Virginia Academy that equating two hours of

³⁰ *Proceedings, 1930-1931*, 14.

³¹ *Ibid.*, 4.

³² *Ibid.*, 15.

³³ Jeffers, *History*, 24-25.

³⁴ *Proceedings, 1931-1932*, 7.

³⁵ *Ibid.*, 7. For a list of all research award winners see Appendix C.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, 21.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, 23.

³⁸ *Proceedings, 1932-1933*, 8.

³⁹ *Ibid.*, 8.

⁴⁰ *Proceedings, 1932-1933*, 11.
15.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*, 15.

⁴² *Proceedings, 1933-1934*, 6.

⁴³ *Ibid.*, 8.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, 16.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, 14-15.

⁴⁶ *Proceedings, 1934-1935*, 7.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, 8.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, 10.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, 11-12.

⁵⁰ Jeffers, *History*, 86.

⁵¹ *Proceedings, 1935-1936*, 11.

lab work with one hour of lecture in figuring teachers' workloads was manifestly unfair.⁴⁰ Kepner's committee "was requested to continue its policy of watchful waiting," and Secretary Miller was authorized to bring this pressing matter before the secretaries' meeting at the annual Christmas-week convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.⁴¹ It was through the constant agitation by groups like the Virginia Academy of Science that Standard Seven was eventually changed so as not to penalize laboratory instructors.

Another state teachers college, this one in Harrisonburg, now Madison College, was the location of the twelfth annual meeting of the Academy on May 4-5, 1934. Academy President William A. Kepner seems to have summed up the Academy's year quite succinctly when he noted at the outset of his report that "little has been accomplished this year in the way of extending the work of the Academy."⁴² E. C. L. Miller reporting again that the Academy found itself in the red, this time by \$134, advised the members that delinquents would be dropped from the roll.⁴³

Professor Wayne Dennis of the University of Virginia moved that the Psychology and Education Section of the Academy be allowed to separate into two distinct sections.⁴⁴ This motion was carried, and thus in 1935 the Academy would have seven functional sections. In addition Dr. Cornelius J. Heatwole, executive secretary of the Virginia Education Association, proposed that the Virginia Academy of Science affiliate itself with the education association. This suggestion was referred to a committee.⁴⁵

The thirteenth convention had as its host the University of Richmond and met May 3-4, 1935. The Academy had succeeded not only in staying within the budget during the preceding year but ended its fiscal year with the largest balance it had ever accumulated, \$1,266.95.⁴⁶ However, all was not financially bright. The national office of the AAAS notified Secretary Miller that the practice of rebating fifty cents for each member who was also a dues-paying member of the Academy would be discontinued. Miller immediately proposed that all dues for Virginia Academy membership be set at \$2.00.⁴⁷ Later, at the meeting of the Council, Professor W. H. Keeble of Randolph Macon College made a motion to this effect and the Council approved it, thus raising the dues of AAAS members in the Academy another fifty cents.⁴⁸

Dr. George W. Jeffers of the State Teachers College at Farmville, now Longwood College, presented the report of his committee, composed of Professors Negus and Keeble, on the affiliation proposed in 1934 of the Academy with the Virginia Education Association. Jeffers's report argued that the growth of the Academy would be hindered through such an affiliation "with a larger organization whose field is somewhat different." It was the considered opinion of the committee that "it would be inadvisable to apply for affiliation with the Virginia Education Association." This report met with the approval of the Council.⁴⁹

Dean Wortley F. Rudd of the Medical College of Virginia announced that the Virginia Section of the American Chemical Society had invited the American Association for the Advancement of Science to hold its annual Christmas meeting in 1938 at Richmond. This would indeed be a feather in the cap of the Old Dominion if it were to come off but, as Dr. Jeffers noted, there was some speculation "that maybe—just maybe—the boys had this time bitten off more than they could chew."⁵⁰ This fear proved to be unjustified.

Virginia Military Institute was the scene of the fourteenth annual meeting of the Academy on May 1-2, 1936. The secretary called for all members to pay their two-dollar dues and reviewed the financial arrangement with the American Association for the Advancement of Science. After discontinuance of the fifty-cent per member rebate, the AAAS begin the practice of giving member organizations a \$100 research grant each year; but, since this money was specifically earmarked for research, the Academy could not use it for operating expenses.⁵¹ It became imperative that the increased dues be paid.

Phipps and Bird, Incorporated, a scientific apparatus firm in Richmond, announced that it was making available gold medals, to be known as Jefferson Gold Medals, for presentation to the authors of outstanding papers read before the scientific academies of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. The gold-medal papers from each of the separate academies were to be entered in a final competition with each other. A central committee chosen from a

different academy each year was to serve as a panel of judges empowered to chose the best papers from those nominated. The author of the paper selected as the best was to receive a \$100 prize and the authors of the two runner-up papers were to be awarded \$25 each. North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia had already accepted the proposal, and, on the recommendation of the Research Committee, Virginia voted to do likewise.⁵²

Dr. Ryland of Richmond took the floor to propose that after 13 consecutive years of going it alone, Dr. E. C. L. Miller, permanent secretary of the Academy, should be given a permanent assistant. This motion was approved but no one was selected at the time to fill the newly created position.⁵³ President Ida Sitler of Hollins College had noted earlier at the Council meeting the invaluable service which Secretary Miller had rendered to the Academy. It was a point well taken and quite often taken by retiring Academy presidents. Said Miss Sitler: "... the activities of the president of the Virginia Academy of Science are so closely linked with those of the secretary that it is difficult, indeed, to isolate them for a separate report." Miss Sitler further pointed out that "since each year's new presiding officer, by the fact of his unacquaintance with Academy administration, is required, in all his endeavours, to lean heavily upon the experience and judgment of its very capable and generous permanent secretary, it would seem that the custom of an earlier day when the secretary presented a joint report of the activities of both officers might well be revived."⁵⁴ The president had reference to the period from 1924 to 1932 when the secretary's report on the year's activities prefaced the rest of the information in the *Proceedings*. This form, however, was not reverted to.

The fifteenth annual meeting was held at the University of Virginia May 6-8, 1937, and was distinguished mainly by decisions made prior to the actual convention. President H. E. Jordan of the University of Virginia had seen fit to call a special session of the Council of the Academy on November 28, 1936, at the Farmington Country Club, Charlottesville.⁵⁵ Several matters were discussed at the dinner meeting, not the least of which was the selection of an individual to assume the responsibilities of assistant secretary-treasurer which Dr. Ryland had called for at the convention in May. Dr. I. A. Updike of Randolph Macon College was appointed for a period of three years and was given a salary of \$25 per year.⁵⁶ The Council also took under consideration the proposal made by Dr. T. McNider Simpson of Randolph Macon at the May gathering to the effect that the Council meeting, which usually preceded the actual convention by one day, be made a part of the regular convention program. It was decided that the name "Academy Conference" would be used to refer to this Thursday evening meeting and that its purpose should be for discussion only. A later meeting of the Council was designated to handle the Academy business matters.⁵⁷

A problem of some interest which the Academy decided would be proper for consideration at the Conference was concerned with the teacher's loyalty oath which had been successfully instituted in several states. Accordingly, the heads of various scientific organizations in the state were invited to the Conference by President Jordan so that they might fully air their views on this subject.⁵⁸ This attempt at consolidated action did not seem to fare too well as no mention was made of a discussion of the matter or any action which might have resulted from such a discussion. However, the State of Virginia did not adopt a teacher's loyalty oath.

Another question which was raised at this first Academy Conference in 1937 concerned the length of the Friday night dinner meeting. It was generally agreed that the dinner agenda was far too long; consequently, President Jordan proposed that since the Academy constitution did not call for an address by the retiring president, he would willingly forego delivering such a speech. The Council voted to leave this up to the president's discretion. Jordan did relinquish his opportunity to speak, but he did not set an Academy precedent by so doing.⁵⁹

Secretary Miller may have been correct when he termed 1937-1938 a "particularly successful year for the Academy"; however, it was not overly eventful. By the time of the sixteenth annual convention in Blacksburg May 5-7, 1938, the 800-member mark had been passed by the Academy.⁶⁰ And the Academy was still growing.

At this meeting Virginia Polytechnic Institute successfully challenged the Uni-

⁵² *Proceedings*, 1935-1936, 9-10.

⁵³ *Ibid.*, 23.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, 6.

⁵⁵ *Proceedings*, 1936-1937, 5.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, 6.

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, 7.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, 7.

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, 9.

⁶⁰ *Proceedings*, 1937-1938, 13.

⁸¹ *Proceedings, 1937-1938*, 5-8.

⁸² Jeffers, *History*, 87-88.

⁸³ *Ibid.*, 87.

⁸⁴ *Ibid.*, 89.

⁸⁵ Interview with Dr. William G. Guy, July, 1966.

⁸⁶ *Proceedings, 1938-1939*, 4.

versity of Virginia's domination of the Academy program. Scientists from Virginia Polytechnic Institute presented 47 papers while the men from Virginia accounted for 40. However, throughout the 1930's Virginia had overwhelmingly dominated each of the programs presented at the annual Academy meetings. As early as 1927 Virginia Polytechnic Institute sponsored 21 papers, but it was not until the Medical College of Virginia presented 11, Virginia Polytechnic Institute 12, and the University of Virginia 47 in 1933 that the Academy had three institutions accounting for more than ten papers each. The same three schools each presented more than ten or more papers again in 1936. The high point of Virginia's domination came in 1935 when that University sponsored 64 papers—a figure which was to go unchallenged until the postwar era.

President D. Maurice Allen of Hampden-Sydney College gave a rather detailed report to the Conference in 1938, but concerned himself primarily with encouraging the scientists to recruit more new members especially in the western part of the state and among high school and industrially connected science personnel.⁸¹ Allen did not continue Jordan's practice of holding a fall meeting of the Council; however, he did follow one Jordan precedent by not giving a presidential address.

Actually the main interest of the Academy was centered on the forthcoming convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Science scheduled for Richmond in December. All had not been easy sledding in preparing for the meeting.

So it was that in the winter of 1938 one of the major events in the history of science in Virginia occurred in Richmond when the American Association for the Advancement of Science convened its annual meeting in that city. Plans had been under way for the convention from the moment it was learned in 1935 that the Virginia Section of the American Chemical Society had invited the AAAS to Richmond. Previous plans for such a convention, it will be remembered, had fallen through in 1930 thanks to the precariousness of the financial situation in Richmond, and at one point a similar end seemed in sight for the 1938 meeting as Washington, D. C., made a belated effort to win the 1938 convention away from the Old Dominion and back to the nation's capital; Washington had lost the convention a year earlier due to the second inaugural of Franklin D. Roosevelt. However, the Virginia Academy Committee on Arrangements successfully warded off this attempt to sabotage the Richmond plans and at the same time gained invaluable experience in working together under pressure—experience which would pay off when the meeting was finally staged.⁸²

The general chairman appointed by the Virginia Academy for the affair, as well as the business manager it approved, were experienced businessmen and well suited for the task which lay before them. Mr. Lloyd C. Bird, president of the scientific supply company of Phipps and Bird, was named general chairman, and Mr. H. K. McConnell, president of Tobacco By-Products Corporation, was selected as the business manager.⁸³ The job these two men did, along with the hard work of countless others of the Academy, made the Richmond convention of the AAAS a great success.

Perhaps the most outstanding job done by one individual was that turned in by Sidney S. Negus as chairman of the Press Services Committee. Dr. Negus, who went far beyond previous norms of congeniality and efficiency, housed the delegation from the press, which was large, at the Hotel John Marshall and provided not only an ever-ready supply of coffee but also as many outside telephone circuits as there were typewriters in the huge battery that was constantly clicking away at the John Marshall. "No previous meeting could boast of such complete coverage," was Dr. Jeffers' summary of Negus's work.⁸⁴ Because of his achievement in 1938, Dr. Negus became the publicity director for the AAAS, a job which he was to hold until his death.⁸⁵

In the wake of the winter's success the seventeenth convention of the Virginia Academy of Science was called to order in Danville on May 4, 1939. The Council meeting, which had been driven from its regular Thursday night spot on the program when the Academy Conference was instituted, was rescheduled for Thursday afternoon and was followed a few hours later by the Conference.⁸⁶

By giving his report to the Academy a title, "The New Frontier," and by adding other formal embellishments to it, President Earle B. Norris of Virginia Polytechnic Institute turned his report into the same sort of speech which Presi-

dent H. E. Jordan had discontinued two years earlier. President Norris's address was a welcome to the newest group affiliated with the Academy, the eighth section, the engineers.⁶⁷ Norris noted in his greeting that "in the earlier days our geographical frontiers were invaded first by the scouts who were followed in due course by the pioneers who settled and developed the country. Just so," continued the President, "in developing our scientific frontier the scouts leading the advance are our pure scientists. . . . The pioneers, following these scouts are our research engineers, taking such discoveries of pure science and developing from them new and better things for mankind to use and enjoy."⁶⁸

Later, during the business meeting, the constitution of the Academy was amended to allow for a larger Academy Council by extending the past President's term from one to three years.⁶⁹

⁶⁷ *Proceedings, 1938-1939*, 9.

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, 9.

⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, 20.