

## THE INDIANA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE.

BY J. T. SCOVELL.

Professional men engaged in almost every kind of scientific work united to form the Indiana Academy of Science.

These people hoped to be benefited by the Association; they believed that it would promote scientific research and aid in the diffusion of knowledge concerning scientific affairs. The people who formed the Academy and aided in its development hoped that as the years rolled by it would so stimulate and encourage scientific work as to make it an important adjunct to the educational system of the State.

From the first, in addition to professional work, it has been the policy to encourage students and amateurs to prepare papers which in effect are reports of work done along some line of scientific investigation. The work may be new to science or it may not, but is new to the writer. The student gets the benefit of the work done and of the friendly criticism of the Academy.

Many valuable papers have been prepared on many different phases of scientific work. Considerable work has been done by the Academy on the flora of the State. Some of the best work that has been done on the botany of the State has been done by members of the Academy. The conservation of forests the study of streams and of climate and all sorts of geological questions have been discussed in the Academy. There have been reports on the reptiles of the State and on the fish that abound in the streams. And several papers have been presented on the insects of the State. One could not discuss any of these subjects fully without consulting the reports of the Academy. Several papers that were presented to the Academy appear in a Geographical Study of Indiana, and several Academy papers appear in the geological reports of Indiana.

Similar work has been done in Chemistry, Physics, Mechanics, Mathematics and in other subjects.

The Academy affords an opportunity for social converse among scientific men, for exchange of ideas and the stimulus of association.

It is in some sense a laboratory where students are stimulated to work, the work in many cases counting as credits on university work. Again these reports are printed, and so this work becomes accessible to many outside the members of the Academy. Again, the Academy has established an extensive system of exchanges of publications with other societies, so that a large number of valuable publications are accumulated in the State Library to the credit of the Academy.

Various sanitary problems have been discussed and some phases of bacteriology and some economic questions have been considered: as to the supply of coal, of building stones and of materials for all kinds of articles made of clay or shale.

The list of presidents contains the names of many noted men who have done good work in the Academy. And the list of members is large, showing that hundreds of people have been inspired and stimulated by association with these prominent educators. A large proportion of the members of the Academy are teachers, and through them thousands of young people in Indiana have been benefited and encouraged by the work of the Academy.

The Indiana Academy of Science has been a success. It has accomplished in a large way all that its founders hoped for. May it continue to prosper.