

I. THE SECRETARY'S REPORT

A. THE NEW YORK MEETING

The annual meeting of the Society was held in New York City at the Hotel Pennsylvania, December 28, 1944, from 4 to 6 P.M. The meeting was an interesting and full one, papers and discussions running beyond the two hours allotted. Some sixty-five persons attended, more than were able to find seats in the small room where the meeting was in session.

The following papers were read and discussed:

"Some Combining Forms in Current English," I. Willis Russell, University of Alabama.

"Notes on Dialect in Early American Writers," Harry R. Warfel, Department of State.

"Some Characteristics of the English of the Middle Atlantic Seaboard," Major Henry Lee Smith, Jr., Language Section, Information and Education Division, Army Service Forces.

It was regrettable that, because of travel restrictions, Dr. Josiah Combs, Texas Christian University, was unable to be present and read his paper, "Lincoln's Gettysburg Address in the Vernacular of the Kentucky Mountaineers."

Reports were given by the Secretary, the Auditing Committee, and the President.

All the officers of 1944 were re-elected for another year. The revised constitution was adopted. It follows this report. (For the old constitution, see *Dialect Notes*, II, 278-9.)

The next meeting, war conditions permitting, will be held at or near Chicago, in conjunction with the Modern Language Association of America.

B. SOME MATTERS REPORTED ON AT THE MEETING

1. *Publishing.* Finding a capable printer who would print our journal at a reasonable price was a discouraging labor. Finally after corresponding with or interviewing fifteen printers, the Secretary secured a satisfactory printer, the Waverly Press, of Baltimore. Two numbers of our organ, the *Publication of the American Dialect Society*, were issued for 1944: Number 1, *Instructions to Collectors of Dialect*, and Number 2, *Word-Lists from the South*.

2. *Membership.* In an effort to secure more members, the Secretary sent out several hundred letters to persons and libraries

that had been members or that he thought might become members. The following are some figures concerning membership:

Life members	19	
Paid-up members	166	
Unpaid but probably "good" members	37	
Paid-up libraries	80	
Total actual members		<u>302</u>
Former members not responsive by word or money	56	
Former library members that have not rejoined	55	
Potential members		<u>111</u>
Total actual and potential members		<u>413</u>

3. *Financial report.* This report is as of December 13, 1944.

Receipts

Received from Mr. A. W. Read:

Feb. 19 one check from MLA	\$100.	
Feb. 19 one check from E. L. Thorndike for new new words	50.	
Sept. 2 one cashier's check for the Society's money	374.45	
Sept. 2 43 checks, mainly for dues	97.60	
Total		<u>\$622.05</u>
Less 2 "bad" checks	4.00	
Actual total		<u>\$618.05</u>
Sept. 11 from Edgar Kurt for PADS No. 125	
Dues from members	170.00	
Dues from libraries	148.00	
Grand total receipts		<u>\$936.30</u>

Disbursements

For envelopes	\$9.19	
" express	1.91	
" miscellaneous	21.48	
" paper	16.84	
" postals and stamps	48.14	
" printing 1200 PADS No. 1	87.82	
" typing	1.25	
" stencils	1.20	
" telegrams	1.64	
Total disbursements		<u>\$189.97</u>
Balance on hand		<u>\$746.33</u>

Disbursements yet to be made

Cost of 600 copies of PADS No. 2
" of express on same
" of mailing same