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THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

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With this number the JOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE completes twenty-five years of existence. It seems fitting to summarize on this anniversary the conditions leading to the establishment of the JOURNAL and its history to the present time.

[Photograph of Dr. Jesse M. Shaver]

The Predecessor of the Journal. In the early days of the Tennessee Academy of Science, the proceedings of the Academy, some of the papers presented at the annual meetings and abstracts of other papers, together with the membership roll and much miscellaneous matter were published in Transactions of the Academy of Science, which appeared at irregular intervals. Altogether two volumes appeared, as follows:

Transactions of the Tennessee Academy of Science, Volume I, April, 1912, to December, 1913. Pp. 1-99. Issued August 1, 1914, under the editorship (apparently) of Professor James A. Lyon. Professor Lyon's biography was published in *Trans. Tenn. Acad. Sci.*, 2: 42-43, 1917.

Transactions of the Tennessee Academy of Science, Volume 2, January 1, 1914, to May 5, 1917. Pp. 1-96. Issued September 15, 1917, under the editorship of Dr. A. H. Purdue. His biography and picture were published in *Jour. Tenn. Acad. Sci.*, 21 (3): 217 (picture only) and biography, *ibid*, 20.

The Beginning of the Journal. When Mr. A. F. Ganier became President of the Tennessee Academy of Science, the Academy acquired an officer possessing exceptional ability. Mr. Ganier had long been interested in many clubs and organizations at Nashville and elsewhere. In all of them he was not content to be just a member. He wanted to see the clubs carry on or sponsor worth-while activities. So, as President of the

Tennessee Academy of Science, he might be expected to get some new things underway. One of these was the JOURNAL OF THE TENNESSEE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, which made its first appearance with the January, 1926, number. It was a thirty-two page journal and was to appear quarterly, in January, April, July, and October. Dr. George R. Mayfield, Professor of German, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, was the Editor. Dr. Mayfield brought to his task the education of a scholar plus much ability as an amateur naturalist, being interested in all forms of nature and especially in birds. This selection of Editor proved a very wise one and by the end of the year, the JOURNAL was well established. Unfortunately, the numerous activities in which Dr. Mayfield was engaged required too much work, and illness and a threatened nervous breakdown forced retirement from many posts, including that of Editor of the JOURNAL at the end of 1928. A picture and biography of Dr. Mayfield is published in this number of the JOURNAL.

A New Editor Takes Over. Following Dr. Mayfield's retirement, Dr. Jesse M. Shaver, Professor of Biology, George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, Tennessee, was elected Editor by the Executive Committee of the Academy. Dr. Shaver had been a teacher in the Department of Biology at Peabody College since 1915. He was much interested in the outdoors, especially in plants, birds, and insects. He secured his bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee, his master's degree from Vanderbilt University, and his Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Chicago with a major in zoology. A brief biography of Dr. Shaver was published in *Jour. Tenn. Acad. Sci.*, 18 (4): 289 and frontispiece, at the time that he became President of the Academy. The first volume to appear under the new Editor was volume 4, 1929.

The Journal Develops. Under the new Editor, the JOURNAL grew rapidly in size, in number of illustrations, and in the quality of the articles printed. This flourishing condition seemed on the way to make the JOURNAL one of the best state academy publications when the financial depression of the thirties arrived. This crisis was weathered by taking advertisements for the first time. These advertisements were all of

products used by scientists and from reputable firms. They really make a distinct contribution to the usefulness of the academy JOURNAL. It is worth pointing out that of the earlier advertisers these are still carrying an advertisement in the JOURNAL: Bausch and Lomb Optical Company, Rochester, New York; the Carolina Biological Supply Company, Elon College, North Carolina; General Biological Supply House, Chicago, Illinois; Nashville Surgical Supply Company, Nashville, Tennessee; Cullom and Ghertner Company, Nashville, Tennessee; Capitol Engraving Company, Nashville, Tennessee; George C. Dury Company, Nashville, Tennessee. The Academy owes much to these firms and the membership of the academy should, whenever possible, give them an opportunity to bid on laboratory supplies and equipment.

The Outlook for the Future. During World War II, the JOURNAL had many financial difficulties, as did many other state publications, but was able to continue to appear. The greatest problem in recent years has been to secure enough money to meet the very great printing costs, which are about 300 percent higher than they were in 1945. This problem of meeting the high printing cost of the JOURNAL is still one of the greatest problems facing the Academy. This problem is now being studied by a committee and it is hoped that some practical solution will be found. Unless this can be done, the JOURNAL may need to be drastically reduced in size, changed to a yearly publication, or changed in other important ways. The Editor has dreamed in the past of getting the JOURNAL in such good financial shape that it would cost the Academy absolutely nothing. While at some past times, the JOURNAL has not only paid its own way but turned in a profit to the Academy, such is not the case at present. Members could help greatly during the present crisis by paying their dues (\$3.00 per year) promptly—even to paying 1951 dues now. Any member who is behind with his dues should make a great effort to pay up at once.