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It is appropriate that the Centennial year of the Iowa Academy of Science be marked by this special edition of the Proceedings reviewing the history of the organization.

The objectives of the Academy as stated in the present constitution, adopted in 1970, are almost identical with those in the first constitution drawn up following the organizational meeting of 1875. These objectives are to disseminate scientific knowledge, to improve instruction in the sciences, to promote interest in science and scientific research, and to recognize high achievement in attaining these objectives. The publication of the Proceedings has made a major contribution to all of these objectives.

The presentation of papers at Academy meetings goes back to 1876. At the time of organization it was agreed that each member should present at least one paper every two years or be dropped from the membership rolls. These first papers were not printed until 1890, but by 1887 the Academy was well enough established so that Volume I of that year was followed by an unbroken series until the present.

Academy members will read with interest the papers in this volume which recount a history of difficulties, failures, hard work, and accomplishments. May this Centennial year also bring a sense of pride in our Academy and a renewed sense of responsibility for carrying out its objectives.

George Knudson  
President  
Iowa Academy of Science