

THE FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY.

WITH the Annual Meeting held on Wednesday, December 28, 1898, the AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY completed the tenth year of its continuous existence under its present and its former name, having been founded as the New York Mathematical Society on November 24, 1888. Its reorganization as a national society went into effect of date July 1, 1894. Reminiscences of the earlier days and a forecast of the aims and prospects of the widened organization were the theme of Dr. Emory McClintock's presidential address: "The past and future of the Society," delivered at the annual meeting, December 28, 1894, and published in the BULLETIN for January, 1895. The rapid growth of the Society in numbers and influence, in scientific zeal and productivity, is steadily realizing the high aspirations of its supporters and friends. It is safe to say that no scientific body in the country is in a more healthy and vigorous condition. The membership has increased from 135 in May, 1891, to 244 in September, 1894, and to 316 in January, 1899. The number of papers presented in 1898 was 88, against 24 in 1894, and the standard of excellence has been at least maintained. The total attendance of members at the seven meetings of 1898 was 182.

An especially encouraging feature is the large number of members who succeed in attending at least one meeting during the year. Nearly one-third of the members, 104, paid this tribute in 1898 to their interest in the work of the Society. This is certainly a large proportion, considering that the meetings were held only in New York, Chicago and Boston, while the members are busy teachers and professional men scattered over the entire country, the foreign membership also being considerable.

Two factors have contributed powerfully to increase the Society's strength and growth since its reorganization as a national body. One of these is the institution of summer meetings, held usually in connection with the large general scientific gatherings, and thus offering special convenience of time and place. The summer meetings have proved extremely popular and interesting, and together with the colloquia by which they have twice been reinforced, they have done more than any other one influence to unite the workers and teachers of mathematics throughout the country in a