I deeply appreciate the honor of being chosen president of the Society for this year. That this position involves responsibility and a challenge is fully recognized. The continuing increase in the activities and influence of our organization naturally provides an ever-growing work load for all of its officers. In addition, anyone who holds the presidential position is following in the path of a number of highly capable and devoted predecessors, from Joe Pechane, our first president, to Danny Freeman, the ninth. I hope my performance will measure up to the high standards that have been set.

In this tenth anniversary year we are naturally conscious and proud of the strides that have been made in the relatively brief life of this organization. It is important to remember the extreme youth of our Society in order to appreciate fully its present stature and accomplishments. To many of us who were involved with the Society at its beginnings, it still seems a very short time since the need for such a group was strongly questioned, and much doubt expressed regarding the possibilities of obtaining enough members to make a credible organization. Now, with more than 3100 members, a well-established journal, 18 active sections and a host of activities at section and national level, such doubts seem absurd, but they were of real concern 10 years ago.

Growing pains are a natural accompaniment of youth and of expansion. We are bound to experience such pains but must not let them disturb us unduly. Membership remains a problem, especially that of developing a loyalty and an appeal that will keep members once they are enrolled. Finances pose many problems, as costs of printing, office help, and other operations rise through factors beyond our control. There are still many ways in which the Society can increase its usefulness and influence, and it takes constant effort to accomplish such gains.

The coming year will undoubtedly bring new opportunities as well as new problems. Fortunately, there are many to share the load. The Section officers, the National committees, the Board of Directors, Vice-President and Executive Secretary combine to make a highly effective group working for the best interests of the Society. Last, but by no means least, is the enthusiasm and effort of each individual member. The fine attendance, good program and enthusiastic spirit which marked the Great Falls meeting started the year on a high note. With the full cooperation of all of you, I look forward with confidence to the continued growth and development of the Society in 1957.

E. W. Tisdale
President