

Editor's Page

The first issue of the second volume of *Names* is almost exclusively devoted to geographical names. With European onomatological periodicals this is the rule, as exemplified by M. S. Beeler's article in this issue. The program of the congress at Uppsala, also published in this issue under "News, Comments, Queries," clearly shows this predominance of toponymic studies in Europe; a minority of papers were devoted to anthroponymy, a few to general studies, and only one to names outside of the fields of geographical and personal name research. With *Names*, however, the large number of place-name articles in this issue is purely accidental. We intend to continue the policy of including all classes of nomenclature in our orbit and make the issues as varied as possible. The next issue will contain among others an essay on the intricate problem of zoological nomenclature by an expert who was present at the lengthy discussions on zoological nomenclature at the recent congress in Denmark.

There is probably no other person in North America better qualified to write on the classification of place-name-giving than George R. Stewart, a member of our editorial board and the author of the classic *Names on the Land*. His "Classification of Place Names" is not only an important contribution to our science, but like many of the previous publications of the author will act as a stimulus to name research in the United States.

William E. Ashton's article on onomatological relations between counties and county seats looks almost like an illustration to Stewart's theoretical article. Our readers will doubtless be able to amplify Mr. Ashton's article by other parallels between the names of counties and their seats. We hope to be able to publish in one of our next issues the humorous account of the havoc which the identity of the name of a province and its capital caused to one of Europe's famous journalists when he was a schoolboy. Mr. Ashton,

by the way, became interested in place names through the medium of collecting postage stamps.

The general article on the magic of names covers a wide field of onomatology, of which we have very few special studies. Mr. Brown is a retired colonel of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and at present on the staff of the London County Council.

The selection from Gottfried Keller in the June, 1953, issue has brought forth an interesting contribution from one of our charter members, Delia H. Pugh. Celtic names are an especially interesting topic of study, not only for the scholar but for the observing amateur. In many regions in Europe place names are the chief historical monuments of the Gaelic race.

The field of the *ANS*, naturally universal in view of its aims, has as a special purpose to stimulate name research in America—the term to be understood as a geographical conception. The contribution of a resident of Dominica, Douglas Taylor, is the first integrated survey on the nomenclature of a political unit of the West Indies. Many similar surveys, as well as specialized studies along this line will follow, we hope.

The article by Curtis Adler opens the subject of Jewish personal nomenclature, another interesting aspect of onomatology, especially timely in view of the heroic struggle of Israel to assert itself as a nation. Mr. Adler, a charter member of the *ANS*, is a court interpreter in Brooklyn.

The articles by our members David Lindsey, Levette J. Davidson, and Grace P. Smith represent three important phases of place naming in the westward movement of the American people: creating place names in new territories, naming the streets of a new city, the development of nicknames.

Madison S. Beeler's survey offers a tribute to one of the most distinguished scholarly periodicals in our field and gives us a glimpse of the methods and principles of onomastics in Europe. Mr. Beeler is a member of our editorial board; his chief interest is linguistics and Indo-European philology.