

Editor's Page

The new section "Your Name" will be welcomed by many readers—at least that is the impression I received from the correspondence in connection with it. People are curious when they read the names of contributors to the journal and the names of the officers and members of the *A.N.S.* To satisfy this intellectual curiosity is the purpose of the new section. In some cases we shall reveal some facts that are new and unknown, in other cases we might only repeat what already is common knowledge—yet there is something of interest in every family name.

The United States Coast and Geodetic Survey is the oldest federal agency, except the Post Office Department, which is directly concerned with the geographical nomenclature of the United States. Since the days of Ferdinand Hassler, Alexander Bache and George Davidson the Survey has placed thousands and thousands of place names on the map. Our readers will be interested in the present-day methods applied by the U.S.C. & G.S. to ascertain the names of topographical features. Dr. A. J. Wraight, the author of the first article, has been with the Coast and Geodetic Survey since 1940, except for a period of about one year with the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, and a period of residence at Clark University. He is now assistant chief of the Geographic Names Section of the Survey. For more than five years he served with its field parties and not only applied the methods described in his article, but was primarily instrumental in the development of this sort of investigation, which has become the standard practice for field parties of the Survey. Dr. Wraight's article has been approved for publication by the Department of Commerce.

With the exception of classical accounts on names and nomenclature, the editorial policy on *Names* is to publish only original contributions. However, sometimes articles are published in local periodicals which are interesting or valuable enough to be reprinted for more permanent record. F. Warren Wright's study was first printed in the students' paper of Smith College. Mr. Wright is professor emeritus of English at Smith College.

"The Purposive Study of Names" is a commentary and supplement to McCartney's contribution in the September 1953 issue of *Names*. Its author is a professor of classics emeritus and at present a member of the editorial staff of the University of California Press.

Philip D. Jordan is professor of history at the University of Minnesota.—Lloyd B. Jensen, a charter member of the *ANS*, is a free lance onomatologist specializing in Norman names.—Charles E. Gilliam of Virginia and Louis M. Ackerman of Nebraska are already well known to our readers.

The review of the last publication of the English Place-Name Society is by our charter member Robert W. Ackerman, professor of English at Stanford University, and author of *An Index to the Arthurian Names*.—C. Grant Loomis is professor of German at the University of California, author of numerous monographs, and for a number of years was an editor of *Western Folklore*.—Joseph G. Fucilla, one of the sponsors of the *ANS*, is professor of Italian at Northwestern University; author of *Our Italian Surnames*.—Hobart M. Lovett, one of our earliest members, has previously contributed to *Names*. He is assistant registrar at the University of California.—T. M. Pearce, another sponsor of the *ANS*, is professor of English at the University of New Mexico and editor of the forthcoming book on the place names of his state.—Joseph N. Corcoran of Philadelphia is an attorney-at-law by profession and an onomatologist by avocation.—Our charter member, John Leighly, who contributes a delightful piece on the lighter side of name study, is professor of geography at California.