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American Institute of Biological Sciences

THE American Institute of Biological Sciences, a voluntary association of organizations which have in common an interest in the life sciences, was founded in 1948 under the sponsorship of the National Research Council. The present membership of the AIBS includes seventeen member societies, ten affiliate societies, and eighteen associates. The total membership of the twenty-seven societies exceeds 30,000.

The current program of the AIBS includes many activities of interest and value to biologists. The AIBS BULLETIN serves as a forum for the discussion of subjects of general interest to biologists. A series of provocative articles on the training of biologists is now being published. Another series, on the agencies which support research in biology, is continuing. As a contribution to vocational guidance, leaders in the field of biology have been invited to prepare inspirational "guest editorials," the first of which will appear in the July issue of the BULLETIN. The AIBS Placement Service is a liaison between biologists and prospective employers. Plans are well underway for the AIBS-sponsored meeting of biological societies to be held at the University of Wisconsin on September 6-10, 1953. The "Bio-Sciences Newsletter," prepared in the AIBS office and distributed by the State Department throughout the world, carries news of biological progress in the United States. Advisory Committees on Biology, Biochemistry, and Physiology assist the Office of Naval Research in evaluating the scientific merit of research proposals in those fields. An Advisory Committee on Hydrobiology, also under an ONR contract, is preparing a directory of hydrobiology stations and personnel. The AIBS and the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology have been called upon to name individuals to represent the field of biology on the Scientific Manpower Commission. The first fascicle of the *Handbook*

of *Biological Data*, entitled "Standard Values in Blood," has appeared in book form, published by the W. B. Saunders Company. Other fascicles in the series, which will include "Nutrition and Metabolism," "Growth and Reproduction," "Performances," "Biochemical Composition," and a fascicle containing miscellaneous tables, are in preparation. As an outgrowth of a series of conferences sponsored by the Division of Biology and Agriculture of the National Research Council, and in which the needs for adequate standards and methods in the procurement of biological materials for research, assaying, testing, and teaching were recognized, an Institute of Animal Resources has been established as a subunit in the Division and assigned to the administrative sphere of the AIBS. In setting up the National Science Foundation, Congress directed that a register of scientific and technical personnel be maintained as a part of a central clearinghouse for information on such personnel. According to present plans, the register will be organized, on a decentralized basis, through the cooperation of such groups as the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology and the AIBS, representing the field of biology.

Many other activities have been undertaken by AIBS as a service to biologists. Problems involved in the publication of scientific journals are constantly studied. Opportunities for biologists in commercial and industrial enterprises are being investigated. The AIBS transmits to biologists information relative to international congresses and other meetings held abroad; it is in a position to work with the Office of Scientific Personnel, the National Science Foundation, Selective Service, and the military services on matters pertaining to biologists.

A few years ago, the American Institute of Biological Sciences was an idea in the minds of a few biologists. Today it is an established fact.

SAMUEL L. MEYER

Executive Director, AIBS

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