American Association of Clinical Chemists (C1)

The American Association of Clinical Chemists held two scientific sessions at which 16 scientific reports dealing with several aspects of clinical chemistry were presented. Donald E. Bowman, of Indiana University School of Medicine, and Oliver H. Gaebler, of the Edsel B. Ford Institute for Medical Research, presided at these sessions.

A third and very popular session of the clinical chemists was a half-day symposium entitled “Significant Trends in the Chemistry of Disease.” At this symposium Harry Weisberg discussed “Electrolytes and acid-base balance,” Jack R. Leonards pointed out some of the “Chemical changes involved in the use of artificial organs,” Ralph I. Dorfman presented “Recent advances in the understanding of hormonal factors in disease,” and Clarence Cohn discussed the “Use of serum transaminase activities in clinical biochemistry.”

A clinical chemists’ banquet, which was attended by the majority of the clinical chemists at Indianapolis, was held during the meetings. Albert Sobel discussed his views on “Professional research.” This was truly a national meeting of clinical chemists, with participants from New York to California.

Robert R. Smeby, Alfred H. Free, Program Chairman

Astronomical League (D2)

The program of the Astronomical League was given in the spirit of a public service. As amateur astronomers, most of our members are professionally active in other fields. Therefore no attempt is made to compete with professional astronomers; instead, we confine our activities to maintaining a close relationship with them and their work, in order to satisfy our own thirst for knowledge and to pass it on to the public in general. Through our local societies we provide a platform to introduce astronomy to anyone who is interested. In our junior activities we provide a stimulus to interest juniors in astronomy and give them an opportunity to be active in it and in science in general.

The timing device introduced in the first paper, “An accurate timing device for astronomical observations,” was original with the local Indianapolis group and develop to be used in the local Moonwatch station. It was unfortunate that the paper on “Observations on the Moon” could not be given; the author was not able to be with us at the meeting. Since the author is an authority on this subject, his paper was to have been the highlight of the meeting. Our junior program is always a surprise to those who are not familiar with the enthusiasm the juniors display. Though only juniors from Indiana participated, the quality and subject matter of the papers was indicative of their devotion to and interest in science. We were delighted with the interest displayed by an audience of about 200 and with the publicity given to this program by the local newspapers and with the television coverage.

The activities of both the junior and senior groups are worthy of public support and are an important stimulus in creating interest in science and in keeping the public informed. For this we need the help of professional astronomers in keeping us informed, and we hope we shall always have a close relationship with them in our common interest, astronomy.

Wilhelm Garnatz, Program Chairman

Astronomy (Section D)

For the second consecutive year Section D had a joint program with the American Astronomical Society. There were 36 contributed papers on the program, one of which (“Solar photographs from 80,000 feet,” by Martin Schwarzschild, J. B. Rogerson, Jr., and J. W. Evans) won the $1000 Newcomb Cleveland Prize. There was also a symposium entitled “The Cepheid Variable Stars.”

The Helen B. Warner lecture of the American Astronomical Society was given by Allan R. Sandage (Mount Wilson and Palomar Observatories), on the subject of “Unsolved problems in the quest for the extragalactic distance scale.”

All of the sessions for papers were held at Butler University. The symposium and the Warner lecture were held in the World War Memorial Auditorium.

The AAS—Section D dinner was held at the Marott Hotel. Following the dinner, Pieter van de Kamp gave the address of the retiring chairman of Section D on the subject of “Facets of astronomy.”

Frank K. Edmondson, Secretary

National Speleological Society (E4)

Three sessions were sponsored by the National Speleological Society: a general session for contributed papers and two symposia.

Two papers in the general session dealt with regional, rather than local, development of limestone caves. These papers are indicative of the transition from the purely descriptive to the more theoretical phases of American speleology. J. R. Fisher and W. B. White discussed the morphology and origin of a series of small caves in the Van Port limestone (Pennsylvanian) of the Allegheny Plateau northwest of Pittsburgh, and Richard L. Powell presented a summary of investigations on caverns and karst features in the Mississippian and Silurian rocks of southern Indiana. The structure and possible mode of origin of mud stalactites and stalagmites observed in Elrod Cave, Orange County, Indiana, was the subject of a paper by Reuben Vig. The final paper, given by Thomas White (University of Illinois), Paul B. Sears (Yale University), and Louis L. Ray (U.S. Geological Survey). There was a 1-day symposium on Mississippian and Pennsylvanian rocks of the Midwest, with Henry H. Gray (Indiana Geological Survey) and David H. Swann (Illinois Geological Survey) presiding. Nineteen papers were presented. This symposium was a joint session with the Geological Society of America and the Association of American Geographers. A half-day session, joint with the National Speleological Society and the Geological Society of America, was devoted to “Karst Phenomena.” William E. Davies presided, and five papers were presented. In addition to the symposia, a half-day session was held consisting of eight contributed papers in geology and geography.

The vice-presidential address by Paul F. Kerr, entitled “Uranium emplacement in the Colorado Plateau,” was presented at the Section E smoker. The smoker was arranged by Claude M. Roberts (U.S. Geological Survey) and was sponsored by the Indianapolis Water Company, Layne-Northern Company, and Mobile Drilling and Engineering Company.

The program of Section E emphasized subjects of interest to earth scientists working in the Middle West. In the symposium on continental glaciation, particular emphasis was placed on the contribution that can be made to our studies of glaciation by fields other than geology and geography. This symposium included papers in the fields of climatology, botany, and zoology.

Frank C. Whitmore, Jr., Secretary

Geology and Geography (Section E)

Three symposia were held as part of the Section E program. Attendance ranged from 50 to 300. The symposium on “Continental Glaciation and its Geographic Importance as an Environmental Factor” lasted for 2 days and included 22 papers. Chairman of the half-day sessions were William D. Thornbury (Indiana University); George W.
Astronomical League (D2)

WILHELM GARNATZ

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