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THE UNION OF AMERICAN BIOLOGICAL SOCIETIES AND BIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS

THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE OF MARCH 7, 1931

By Professor W. C. CURTIS
President 1931

The Union of American Biological Societies was formed in 1923 by the organizations that wished to establish the comprehensive abstracting journal known as Biological Abstracts. It is stated in the preamble of the Union that "in view of the existence of many biological societies in America, each preoccupied with its own special affairs and problems, in view of the assured interest of all these societies in the broader and more general aspects of the promotion of biological science, and especially in view of the need for improved means of contact and mutual aid between the pure and the applied branches of biological science, this Union is established to facilitate constructive and mutually advantageous cooperation among the several special biological societies and to promote the major interests of biology." The objects stated are "to stimulate investigation in the field of biology, to organize and promote the interests of bibliography and publication, to deal with questions of general interest in the field of biology, and in general to promote the solution of those broad problems which the specialized societies are not in a position to support effectively, and to do anything else which may serve these ends."

Administration of the Union is vested in an executive committee, consisting of the president, secretary, treasurer and three additional members, and a council, consisting of two representatives of each member-society. At the outset there were seventeen member-societies. There are now twenty-nine, with another