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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 bio-
logical 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 construc-
tive 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 pro-
mote 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 execu-
tive 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
73 (1898)

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