

- growth of bacteria, especially for tubercle bacilli\$500
 Isidor Greenwald, Harriman Research Laboratory, the Roosevelt Hospital, New York, N. Y. For continuation of work on reaction of alkaline picrate solutions with creatinine and other organic substances 300

Astronomy

- Frank Schlesinger, Yale University, New Haven, Conn. For making determinations of the trigonometric parallaxes of southern stars 500

Zoology

- Phineas W. Whiting, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa. For studying effects of X-radiation on the germ-plasm of *Habrobracon*... 200
 David D. Whitney, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebr. For studying the rate of metabolism in male-producing and female-producing rotifers..... 250

Botany

- Joyce Hedrick, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. For continuation of research and publication of Dr. Bruce Fink's "Lichen Flora of the United States" 350

Anthropology

- Lawrence T. Royster, University, Va. For comparing the size of the sella turcica as studied by X-ray, of white males and females, and colored males and females, between eight and nine years of age 200

Physiology

- J. P. Baumberger, Stanford University, Calif. For construction of special apparatus for studying apparent oxidation-reduction potential of respiratory substances 100
 W. H. Cole, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J. For quantitative study of effects of varying the concentrations of the gases in inspired air in animals 150
 J. F. McClendon and George Burr, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn. For quantitative study of the effect of large assayed injections of the ovarian hormone on physiology, especially metabolism 450

THE ANNUAL SESSION OF THE SECRETARIES' CONFERENCE

The secretaries' conference serves as a special committee of the American Association, to facilitate the interchange of ideas and suggestions among its members for the mutual advantage of the associated societies and the association. Its membership consists of the secretaries of the associated societies, the secretaries of the sections of the association and the members of the executive committee of the association council. It thus forms a useful instrument of liaison between the associated societies and the broader organization. Its work is carried on by the conference

secretary, through correspondence extending throughout the year and by means of a special session at the annual meeting. All members of the conference who are in official attendance at the annual meeting are invited to the complimentary secretaries' dinner, provided by the American Association.

This rather informal organization has an elected secretary, who automatically becomes chairman when his successor is elected at the annual session. The newly elected secretary prepares minutes of the session, at the opening of which he is elected, and these are subsequently distributed to the members by mail. He conducts correspondence with the members by means of circular letters and prepares a program for oral discussions at the next annual session, at which he acts as chairman.

The New York session of the secretaries' conference was held Sunday evening, December 30, in the El Patio rooms of the McAlpin Hotel, beginning with a social gathering before the secretaries' dinner, which was a dinner conference. Dr. George T. Hargitt, who had served as secretary of the conference throughout 1928, became chairman and presided at the session, his successor having been elected, as the first order of business, on nominations secured from the members by a mail ballot sent out from the permanent secretary's office. The newly elected secretary of the conference is Dr. Philip Fox, secretary of Section D.

An excellent program for discussion, which had been prepared by Dr. Hargitt, based on his correspondence with the members, was carried through very effectively, with speakers prearranged to lead discussion on the several topics. The following notes of suggestions that developed in these discussions are based on the minutes of the New York session, received from Dr. Fox. It was pointed out that serious conflicts between society programs and the general sessions of the association might be largely avoided if the section and society secretaries might arrange the dates of their joint sessions and dinner meetings as early in the year as possible, keeping the permanent secretary's office informed on such matters. Then the general sessions of the association might be arranged so as to fit in with the society and section plans. The lectures and addresses presented at the general sessions are planned to be of interest to all workers in science but each of these sessions naturally represents one field of science more than others and it is highly desirable that workers in the field represented by one of these main speakers should be as free as possible to attend his address before the association as a whole. There was a little confusion in this respect at New York, due partly to the selection of dates for the great evening general sessions by the president of the association without much study of the society plans that

were available, and partly to the fact that the general plans of some societies were not in the hands of the permanent secretary till about the time the General Program had to go to press. It should be emphasized that the proverbial early bird remains an excellent exemplar for secretaries who are planning meeting programs, and that September and October, or even earlier months of the year, are the best period for correspondence with the permanent secretary about general plans and the setting aside of special days for special groups. Through November and December the correspondence of the permanent secretary rapidly increases, until many matters that deserve more prolonged attention have to be handled in a rather perfunctory manner in the last hectic weeks before the opening of our great annual meeting.

The sense of confusion that pervades these great meetings, where all branches of science are represented, results of course from the difficulty experienced by an individual in choosing among the great wealth of interesting and valuable material offered. At its worst, this sense of confusion leads to the thought that the special societies might better meet separately or in small groups, but when this occurs their members miss valuable opportunities to become better acquainted with the work going on in other fields—opportunities that constitute the greatest value of the great association meetings. The inevitable antagonism between scientific specialization and the broad intellectual attitude is at the bottom of this difficulty. Dr. Humphreys remarked, however, that “It is birds of one feather that flock by themselves,” and one solution of our problem appears to be for the societies to hold some of their more specialized meetings independently or in small groups, coming with the association as frequently as possible, however, in order to secure the undoubted benefits of the complex meetings. It is also suggested that the holding of additional spring or summer meetings by the societies, a plan already adopted by many of them, cares for some of the more specialized sessions without distraction and renders the meetings held with the association less crowded and freer for intercourse with workers in other fields.

The problem of securing new members and retaining those who are already enrolled in an organization was discussed at length. For some societies the securing of new members is a work of promotion; for others it is a problem of selection. In either case, lists of those who might be interested to join the organization are needed. If resignations are numerous it would be well to analyze the reasons given, to ascertain whether much resignation might not be avoided. It was emphasized that it is generally desirable for societies to be able to receive new members at all times throughout the year. Comments by several secretaries brought

out the great diversity in the annual dues of the various organizations; the dues of our societies range from \$1.00 to \$25. Mr. Woodley reviewed the recent experience of the association in its campaigns for new members. Between October 1, 1927, and December 15, 1928, more than 2,700 new names were added to the association roll.

An animated discussion was concerned with the manner of presentation of scientific material at our sessions. Some speakers felt that the arts of presentation need to be given more attention. Some mechanical features of presentation received attention, such as the suitable preparation of lantern slides, charts, etc. The consensus of the session seemed to be that, while presentation is surely an important feature, the scientific results presented constitute the real reason for scientific meetings. It was suggested that our universities might perhaps devote somewhat more serious attention to the presentation of the results of research, as by “coaching” advance students in preparation for their first appearance as speakers at society meetings.

The discussion emphasized the great value of the science exhibition as an important feature of the association meetings. It was stated that the commercial part of our exhibition is now well established and assured of continued success, but that the exhibitions are still not what they should be in regard to exhibits of a purely scientific nature. It was suggested that societies might undertake to organize research or teaching exhibits by their members, but such exhibits require the attention of some person or group of persons to arrange for them in advance and to see that they are well installed and supplied with suitable attendants during the period of the exhibition. All individuals who have apparatus, methods, etc., to exhibit at the annual exhibition should inform the permanent secretary early in the year. Because exhibits have to be installed rapidly and “under high pressure,” it is advisable that all exhibitors should bring to the exhibition hall all of the accessories essential to efficient work in installation, including even “string and thumb-tacks.” It was urged that the general exhibition should be provided with a suitable space and the requisite projectors for the showing of motion pictures presenting scientific research.

The suggestion, which has been made by members from time to time, that it might be well for the association to consider reorganization so as to have only about three sections, with as many subsections as might be needed (the affiliated societies taking the places of subsections when fields are cared for by the societies), was briefly presented, but time did not permit a thorough discussion. The feeling of the conference session appeared to be that our present association organization functions fairly well, and that

suggestions for basic alterations should be supported by well-thought-out proposals and should be subjected to prolonged and public discussion, as in the pages of the official journal. Until great interest and able leadership become evident in favor of a change, the conference felt that our organization should be left without fundamental alteration.

The minutes of the New York session of the secretaries' conference are to be mailed to the conference members in the near future, and members will be asked to make and to consider suggestions for the work of the conference during 1929 and for the program of its Des Moines session next December.

THE NEW YORK SESSION OF THE ACADEMY CONFERENCE

THE academy conference acts as a special committee of the American Association, on the relations between the affiliated academies of science and between them and the association. The association is anxious to aid the academies in every way and especially to facilitate their representing the aims and purposes of the association in their respective regions. The facilities of the permanent secretary's office are at the disposal of the academy conference in the carrying on of its work. The conference consists of the representatives of the affiliated academies in the association council and three members named by the executive committee to represent the association as a whole in the deliberations of the conference. The conference has a secretary, elected at its annual session at the time of the annual meeting of the association. He conducts correspondence with the members throughout the year and formulates therefrom a program for discussion at the next conference session. The work of the organization was well started in 1928, by William H. Alexander and Howard E. Enders, conference chairman and secretary for that year, and an interesting session, at which great enthusiasm was shown, was held at New York, following the first council session on Thursday afternoon, December 27. The session was followed by the annual complimentary academy dinner, to which conference members were invited by the association, and that dinner proved to be a very profitable and enjoyable feature of the New York meeting.

Dr. D. W. Morehouse, representing the Iowa Academy of Science, was elected secretary of the academy conference for 1929, and Dr. Howard E. Enders, representing the Indiana Academy of Science, who had been conference secretary for 1928, is chairman of the conference for 1929. These elections were subsequently approved by the council of the association.

Since the business of the academy conference deals with matters specially interesting to the academy representatives and since this conference is but newly organized, it will not be necessary in this place to

report in detail on its work, and the permanent secretary wishes only to record the fact that the conference is now actively functioning and that it appears to have before it a very useful future. This report of progress may be added to at a later time, as the work of the conference takes definite form. It is expected that its work will shortly become of great interest not only to all academy members but to the general membership of the association as well.

THE PRESIDENT ELECT

ROBERT ANDREWS MILLIKAN, distinguished president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science for 1929, is of New England stock, of Scotch and English descent. His father, Rev. Silas Franklin Millikan, who was a graduate of Oberlin College, preached for forty years in Congregational churches of Illinois, Iowa and Kansas. His mother, Mary Jane Andrews, was also a graduate of Oberlin College and she had been dean of women in Olivet College, Michigan. President Millikan received the A.B. degree from Oberlin College in 1891 and taught elementary physics there during the following two years. He received the Ph.D. degree in physics at Columbia University in 1895 and spent the next year studying physics in the universities of Berlin and Göttingen. Assistant in physics at the University of Chicago in 1896-97, he passed rapidly forward and attained a professorship in 1910, a position which he held for eleven years. Since 1921 he has been director of the Norman Bridge Laboratory of Physics, of the California Institute of Technology, at Pasadena.

It is interesting to note that Millikan's special interest in physics, the science that owes so much to his many brilliant and successful research contributions as well as to his eminently clear and inspirational teaching and writing, does not appear to have dated from his college days. In his undergraduate period at Oberlin College he was most absorbed in Greek and mathematics and he limited himself to a single one-semester course in physics. His deep and lasting interest in his chosen science developed in connection with his teaching of the subject after his graduation. As an undergraduate he took prominent part in many student activities; he was an athlete of some local success, he was president of his class in the sophomore year, editor-in-chief of the college annual in his junior year, acted as student gymnasium director during his junior and senior years and made the speech on behalf of his class at the time of his graduation. He is still an enthusiastic tennis player.

For a third of a century Dr. Millikan has been actively and indefatigably engaged in physical research, chiefly in the fields of electricity, optics and molecular physics. The following brief summary of some of our new president's best-known investigations,

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