

would be attained without such—shall we call it partisan?—interest.

A. CRUM BROWN.

THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON.

BOTANICAL development at the national capital has been so rapid within the last few years that few outside of Washington comprehend that it has become the leading botanical center of America and is rapidly taking position as one of the leading botanical centers of the world. Probably no city in the world can boast of a larger number of well-trained professional men devoting their entire time to the study of botany in some one of its various branches. The aggregation of so large a number of professional botanists has finally led to the formation of a general botanical society which is of more than passing interest, as there is hardly a university of any note in the country that is not represented by graduates among its members.

The Biological Society of Washington was the first society organized in Washington which gave any attention to botanical matters. This society was too formal and did not allow of sufficient discussion to suit some of the botanists, and as a result in 1893 the 'Botanical Seminar' was organized, the original membership including Messrs. F. V. Coville, D. G. Fairchild, B. T. Galloway, Theo. Holm, E. F. Smith and M. B. Waite. The main aim of the Seminar was to discuss general problems of plant physiology and pathology and to promote a friendly spirit of criticism. In the early days of the Seminar no member published a paper until it had been read or summarized before the Society and had run the gauntlet of criticism which, the writer can testify, was frequently so severe as to be perilous to the peace of mind of the member under criticism. In no other society which the writer has ever attended was criticism so freely indulged in, or, it may

be remarked, so pleasantly received. As it is axiomatic that no two minds ever think exactly alike, so it came to be an understood thing that no paper would suit everyone and many a lively discussion and tilt of warm words resulted.

The organization of the Seminar was somewhat novel, being mainly remarkable for its lack of organization. The Seminar had no officers and no constitution and its membership, though very exclusive, existed only as tradition or in memory. The meetings were held at the residences of members, the host of the preceding meeting acting as chairman. The membership was limited to twenty-five and unanimous consent of all members was required for election to membership.

In the nine years of its existence the Seminar filled an important place in Washington's botanical development, both scientifically and socially. A light lunch was served at each meeting and these light lunches, which sometimes became heavy, served as they were at 11 P.M., became famous among the members. It may be said that the fire of scientific enthusiasm requires no midnight lunch to feed upon, but it is certain that no matter how keenly the scientific fire burns a lunch during the evening adds to the flow of ideas and is conducive to 'that satisfied feeling' which makes all members regular attendants.

Within a few years the number of botanists in Washington became too large to be accommodated in the botanical seminar, meeting as it did in private houses, and in 1898 the Washington Botanical Club was organized particularly to consider the problems of systematic botany and furnish a means of communication between botanists interested in systematic and ecological studies. The organization of this club was largely brought about through the activity of Mr. C. L. Pollard and the late Gilbert H. Hicks. The general plan of this organ-

ization was similar to that of the seminar, but differed in having a corps of regular officers.

Dr. E. L. Greene was elected as the first president and Mr. C. L. Pollard as the first secretary, and they were retained in these offices until the society disbanded, when the Washington Botanical Society was organized.

The Botanical Seminar and Botanical Club worked harmoniously and well for a few years, but the rapidly increasing number of botanists in Washington rendered it desirable that a general society should be organized in which all of the botanists could be brought together at least occasionally. Private houses were in general found to be too small to accommodate comfortably even a membership of twenty-five, to which the seminar was limited, and numerous botanists of equal professional rank were asking for admission.

The organization of the Botanical Society of Washington was finally effected by a resolution of the constituent societies at a joint meeting held November 28, 1901. The course of events leading up to this action was as follows:

As a result of the general sentiment in favor of consolidation the Botanical Seminar appointed a committee consisting of Messrs. H. J. Webber, O. F. Cook and M. B. Waite, and the Botanical Club a committee consisting of Messrs. C. L. Pollard, David White and William R. Maxon, to consider plans of organization. As a result of the deliberation of the committee a plan of organization was devised and a joint meeting of the two societies was called at which the organization was perfected and the following constitution was adopted:

CONSTITUTION.

Article I.

The name of this Society shall be the Botanical Society of Washington.

Article II.

The object of this Society shall be the exposition and discussion of the results of botanical investigations, and the promotion of social intercourse among the members.

Article III.

The members of the Society shall be residents of Washington or vicinity having a professional interest in botanical science.

Article IV.

1. The officers of the Society shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary and a Treasurer. These officers shall constitute the Executive Committee.

2. Officers shall be elected annually by ballot, and shall hold office until their successors are elected. The Executive Committee shall have power to fill vacancies until the next annual election.

Article V.

This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting by a two thirds' vote of the total membership, written notice of the proposed amendment having been submitted at the preceding regular meeting. Absent members may register their votes by letter.

The first officers of the society, elected at the same meeting, were as follows: President, Albert F. Woods; Vice-President, F. V. Coville; Recording Secretary, C. L. Pollard; Corresponding Secretary, Herbert J. Webber; Treasurer, Walter H. Evans.

One novel feature of the society is that while the president presides at all business meetings and represents the Society officially as in ordinary societies, space is given to the scientific programs by the by-law which provides that 'the scientific program of each regular meeting shall be conducted by a Chairman of Program; and that the same Chairman shall not preside over more than one meeting during the year.'

Meetings are held monthly and each meeting is preceded by an informal dinner at the regular dinner hour, 5:30 P.M. The following is a list of the present members of the Society:

LIST OF MEMBERS.

Carleton R. Ball, M.S. (Iowa Agricultural College). Assistant Agrostologist, Department of Agriculture.

William R. Beattie, B.S. (Ohio State University). Assistant in Testing Gardens, Department of Agriculture.

Ernst A. Bessey, M.A. (University of Nebraska). Assistant in Charge of Seed and Plant Introduction, Department of Agriculture.

Edgar Brown, Ph.B. (Union College). Assistant Botanist, Department of Agriculture.

Frank K. Cameron, A.B., Ph.D. (Johns Hopkins University). Soil Chemist, Department of Agriculture.

Mark A. Carleton, M.S. (Kansas Agricultural College). Cerealists, Department of Agriculture.

Joseph S. Chamberlain, M.S. (Iowa Agricultural College), Ph.D. (Johns Hopkins University). Expert in Physiological Chemistry, Department of Agriculture.

Victor K. Chesnut, B.S. (University of California). Botanist in Charge of Investigations of Poisonous Plants, Department of Agriculture.

Guy N. Collins, Assistant Botanist in Tropical Agriculture, Department of Agriculture.

O. F. Cook, Ph.B. (Syracuse University). Botanist in Charge of Tropical Agriculture, Department of Agriculture.

Lee C. Corbett, M.S. (Cornell University). Horticulturist of Bureau of Plant Industry, Department of Agriculture.

Frederick V. Coville, A.B. (Cornell University). Chief Botanist, Department of Agriculture.

Lester H. Dewey, B.S. (Michigan Agricultural College). Assistant Botanist in Charge of Investigations of Fiber Plants, Department of Agriculture.

Benjamin M. Duggar, A.M. (Harvard University), Ph.D. (Cornell University). Plant Physiologist, Department of Agriculture.

Arthur W. Edson, B.S. (University of Vermont). Scientific Aid in Plant Breeding Laboratory, Department of Agriculture.

Walter H. Evans, M.S., Ph.D. (Wabash College). Botanical Editor *Experiment Station Record*, Department of Agriculture.

David G. Fairchild, B.S. (Kansas Agricultural College). Agricultural Explorer, Department of Agriculture.

Beverly T. Galloway, B.S. (University of Missouri). Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Department of Agriculture.

Harris P. Gould, B.S. (University of Maine), M.S. (Cornell University). Assistant Pomologist, Department of Agriculture.

Edward L. Greene, Ph.B. (Albion College), LL.D. (University of Notre Dame). Professor of Botany, Catholic University of America.

David Griffiths, M.S. (South Dakota Agricultural College), Ph.D. (Columbia University). Assistant Agrostologist in Charge of Range Investigations, Department of Agriculture.

Charles P. Hartley, M.S. (Kansas Agricultural College). Assistant in Plant Breeding Laboratory, Department of Agriculture.

Albert S. Hitchcock, M.A. (Iowa Agricultural College). Assistant Agrostologist in Charge of Cooperative Experiments, Department of Agriculture.

Frederic H. Hillman, M.S. (Michigan Agricultural College). Assistant in Seed Herbarium, Botanical Investigations, Department of Agriculture.

Thomas H. Kearney, Assistant Physiologist in Plant Breeding Laboratory, Department of Agriculture.

Karl Kellerman, B.S. (Cornell University). Scientific Aid, Plant Physiological Laboratory, Department of Agriculture.

Frank H. Knowlton, M.S. (Middlebury College), Ph.D. (Columbia University). Paleontologist, Geological Survey.

William R. Maxon, Ph.B. (Syracuse University). Aid in Cryptogamic Botany, Division of Plants, National Museum.

R. E. B. McKenney, M.S. (University of Pennsylvania), Ph.D. (Basil University). Expert, Vegetable Physiological and Pathological Investigations, Department of Agriculture.

George T. Moore, M.A., Ph.D. (Harvard). Algologist and Plant Physiologist, Department of Agriculture.

Edward L. Morris, A.M. (Amherst College). Head of the Department of Biology, Washington High Schools.

Jesse B. Norton, M.S. (Kansas Agricultural College). Scientific Aid in Plant Breeding Laboratory, Department of Agriculture.

J. B. S. Norton, M.S. (Kansas Agricultural College). Professor of Botany and State Pathologist, Maryland Agricultural College and Experiment Station.

William A. Orton, M.S. (University of Vermont). Assistant Plant Pathologist, Department of Agriculture.

Adrian J. Pieters, B.S. (University of Michigan). Botanist in Charge of Seed Laboratory, Department of Agriculture.

Charles L. Pollard, A.B., A.M. (Columbia University). Assistant Curator, Division of Plants, National Museum.

G. Harold Powell, M.S. (Cornell University). Assistant Pomologist, Department of Agriculture.

Percy L. Ricker, M.S. (University of Maine). Scientific Aid in Agrostology, Department of Agriculture.

J. N. Rose, M.A., Ph.D. (Wabash College). Assistant Curator, Division of Plants, National Museum.

Filibert Roth, B.S. (University of Michigan). Chief of Forestry Division, in Charge of U. S. Forestry Reserves, Department of Interior.

Carl S. Scofield, B.S. (University of Minnesota). Expert on Cereals, Department of Agriculture.

Cornelius L. Shear, A.M. (University of Nebraska). Assistant Plant Pathologist, Department of Agriculture.

Erwin F. Smith, B.S., D.Sc. (University of Michigan). Pathologist in Charge of Laboratory of Plant Pathology, Department of Agriculture.

William J. Spillman, M.S. (University of Missouri). Chief Agrostologist, Department of Agriculture.

Dean B. Swingle, B.S. (Kansas Agricultural College), M.S. (University of Wisconsin). Scientific Aid in Laboratory of Plant Pathology, Department of Agriculture.

Walter T. Swingle, M.S. (Kansas Agricultural College). Physiologist in Charge of the Laboratory of Plant Physiology, Department of Agriculture.

William A. Taylor, B.S. (Michigan Agricultural College). Pomologist in Charge of Field Investigations, Department of Agriculture.

Charles O. Townsend, M.S. (University of Michigan), Ph.D. (Leipzig). Plant Pathologist, Department of Agriculture.

J. E. W. Tracy, B.S. (Michigan Agricultural College). Expert Seed Tester, Department of Agriculture.

Rodney H. True, M.S. (University of Wisconsin), Ph.D. (Leipzig). Plant Physiologist, Department of Agriculture.

Merton B. Waite, B.S. (University of Illinois). Pathologist in Charge of Investigations of Diseases of Orchard Fruits, Department of Agriculture.

Herbert J. Webber, M.A. (University of Nebraska), Ph.D. (Washington University). Plant Physiologist in Charge of Laboratory of Plant Breeding, Department of Agriculture.

David White, B.S. (Cornell University). Geologist, Geological Survey.

Milton Whitney, Chief of the Bureau of Soils, Department of Agriculture.

William F. Wight, B.S. (Michigan Agricultural College), M.A. (Stanford University). Assistant, Geographic Botany, Department of Agriculture.

Earley V. Wilcox, Ph.D. (Harvard University). Associate Editor of *Experiment Station Record*, Department of Agriculture.

Albert F. Woods, M.A. (University of Nebraska). Chief Pathologist and Physiologist, Department of Agriculture.

Total membership, 57.

The plan of organization of the Society provides that, whenever it seems desirable, seminars may be formed for the study and discussion of special topics. Such seminars are to be associated with the Society and to be conducted mainly on the plan of the original Botanical Seminar. Four such seminars have already been formed, namely: (1) Agronomic Seminar, (2) Physiological and Pathological Seminar, (3) Plant Breeding Seminar, (4) Systematic Botanical Seminar.

Botanical activity in Washington is rapidly increasing and the present list of members will probably be greatly enlarged within the next year.

It is not probable that the Society will publish proceedings or issue any papers in the near future; but hereafter reports of the meetings will be furnished to *SCIENCE* whenever the program is of such a nature as to justify a report.

HERBERT J. WEBBER,
Corresponding Secretary.

THE MOSQUITO CAMPAIGN IN NEW JERSEY.

THERE has been much comment in the Press on the above matter since Assembly bill No. 31 was first introduced in the New Jersey Legislature. Though the bill is