American Botanical Societies and Meetings: W. F. GANONG, Smith College.

Report upon the results of an inquiry among a number of botanists regarding the present relations of the various botanical societies and the methods of conducting the meetings.

GEORGE T. MOORE,
Secretary

THE SECOND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR PHARMACOLOGY AND EXPERIMENTAL THERAPEUTICS[1]

THIS society had a very successful meeting at the Yale Medical School and the Sheffield Scientific School; the Physiological and Biochemical Societies met at the same time.

The following program was presented; unusual interest was taken in the discussions.

W. Salant, "The Pharmacology of Oil of Chenopodium."

A. S. Loevenhart, "Further Observations on the Action of Iodoso- and Iodoxybenzoic Acids."

C. W. Edmunds and W. W. Hale, "Physiological Standardization of Ergot."

L. G. Rowntree (with J. T. Geraghty), "Additional Data relating to the use of Phenolsulphonephthalein as a Functional Test for the Kidney."

H. C. Wood, Jr., "The Vaso-motor System of the Pulmonary Circulation."

C. J. Wiggers, "The Modifying Influence of Anemia on the Actions of some Well-known Drugs."

L. G. Rowntree and J. J. Abel, "Further Experiments in the Field of Specific Chemo-therapeutics."

T. S. Githens and S. J. Meltzer, "The Control of Strychnine Poisoning by Means of Insufflation and Ether."

C. W. Green, "The Action of Strophanthin on the Isolated Mammalian Heart."

G. Carr (by invitation), "The Action of Acetanilid on Cardiac Muscle."

W. Salant (with J. B. Rieger), "The Elimination of Creatin and Creatinin after the Administration of Caffeine."

W. Salant (with I. K. Phelps), "The Influence of Caffeine on Protein Metabolism."

C. Voegtlin (with B. M. Bernheim), "The Rôle of the Portal Circulation of the Liver in Bile Formation and Jaundice."

H. G. Barbour (by invitation) and J. J. Abel, "Tetanic Convulsions in Frogs produced by Acid Fuchsin and their Relation to the Problem of Inhibition in the Central Nervous System."

J. Auer and S. J. Meltzer, "On Intramuscular Absorption."

D. R. Joseph and S. J. Meltzer, "The Action of Sodium Chloride upon the Phenomena following the Removal of the Parathyroids in Dogs."

W. J. Gies, "Experiments with Salts of Aluminium and Beryllium."

The following new members were elected: S. P. Beebe, Cornell University Medical College, New York; R. B. Gibson, University of Missouri; P. H. Hiss, Jr., Columbia University; Paul Lewis, University of Pennsylvania; L. B. Mendel, Yale University; Isaac Ott, Medico-Chirurgical College, Philadelphia; J. H. Pratt, Harvard University.

The following officers were elected for the year 1911:

President—J. J. Abel.

Secretary—Reid Hunt.

Treasurer—A. S. Loevenhart.

Additional Members of Council—W. deB. MacNider, G. B. Wallace.

Membership Committee—S. J. Meltzer, C. W. Edmunds, Torald Sollmann.

The following resolutions were adopted concerning the recent death of Dr. C. A. Herter, one of the charter members of the society:

"By the death of Dr. Christian A. Herter, one of its charter members and founders, the American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics has suffered a loss which it can but inadequately express. Dr. Herter's breadth of view, his intimate knowledge and grasp of vital experimental problems, his clearness of expression and his valuable contributions to medical science made his connection with the society of great value to it. His encouragement and ever-ready assistance in the work of younger men, his appreciation of their difficulties, his own constancy in adhering to the high ideals of earnest and sincere work which he taught to them have made his death a personal loss to each individual member.

"The sorrow felt by the members of the society, however deep it may be, is but a small part of the general sorrow felt by the large number of men throughout this country with whom Dr. Herter came directly or indirectly in contact. The society desires to express its share of this sorrow, however, and it is therefore

"*Resolved*, that there be spread upon the record of its minutes this expression of its feeling of loss at the death of Dr. Herter, of its sincere

[1] New Haven, Conn., December 28–30, 1910.

appreciation of his work and of its deep admiration of his personal character.

Committee { Reid Hunt, George B. Wallace, A. N. Richards "

Hygienic Laboratory,

Reid Hunt,
Secretary

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

THE BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

The 477th regular meeting of the society was held January 6, 1911, with President David White in the chair and fifty-one persons present.

Two new members were elected and standing committees announced by the president.

Barton W. Evermann reported observations on the fly-catching habits of the common brown rat.

C. D. Marsh called attention to a report by Sars on crustacea from Lake Tanganyika, and stated that the list, so far as copepods are concerned, fails to bear out the theory that this lake is of very ancient origin.

The following communications were presented:

Notes on the Aspens: I. Tidestrom.

The speaker gave the history and relationship of several American and European forms of the genus *Populus*. He showed that the western quaking aspen differs in several particulars from the eastern, and proposed a new name for the western form. A number of herbarium specimens illustrated the remarks.

Some Nesting Habits of Water Ousels and Cuckoos: Ned Dearborn.

The remarks were illustrated by photographs of the birds and nests. The observations on the water ousel were made in Spearfish Canyon, S. D., and in Santa Fe Canyon, N. M., during last summer; those on the black-billed and yellow-billed cuckoos were made at Joliet, Ill., in 1906.

A Recently Imported Enemy of Alfalfa: F. M. Webster.

The alfalfa or lucern weevil (*Phytonomus murinus*) was introduced into this country, probably in the packing or in packages of articles of international commerce, some time prior to 1904, when it was first discovered by the entomologists of the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station attacking a small field of alfalfa in the vicinity of Salt Lake City, Utah. From this point it has since that time spread over the country northward to near Ogden and southward to beyond Provo and from a considerable distance westward of Tooele, very nearly to the borders of Wyoming.

The eggs are deposited chiefly in punctures made in the young stems by the adult beetles; the larvæ, as soon as they hatch, make their way to the tender growing crowns of the plants, feeding upon the unfolding leaves and tender stems, and thus prevent growth of the young plants. Later on in the season, after the insects have reached the adult stage, these still attack the alfalfa plants by gnawing the bark from the stem, thus destroying them.

In many alfalfa fields about Salt Lake, at the time for mowing the first crop of hay, the plants had not made sufficient growth to admit of mowing; while the second crop was seriously damaged by the feeding of the adult beetles as just described. Approximately, damage to the amount of a half million dollars was caused during the last year by this pest in Utah.

No thoroughly practical measures have been found for preventing the spread of the pest or very materially reducing the results of its depredations.

The habit of the adults in hiding away in baled hay, in fruit packages, or almost any other similar articles of commerce, as well as their attaching themselves to freight cars and hiding themselves in the vestibules of Pullman sleeping cars, makes their diffusion by railways almost unpreventable. Twenty-seven individuals were taken from the vestibule of one sleeping car attached to a train at Salt Lake City last July. Also, the adult insects fly about freely during the summer and being carried by the winds are also in this manner widely diffused.

The present indications are that the insect will make its appearance in southern Idaho, southern Wyoming and eastern Nevada the coming spring. Fortunately, alfalfa does not enter into international commerce as does cotton; therefore this insect is not likely to affect articles of international commerce. But over the western country, where it seems likely to diffuse itself and carry on its destructive work, there is much territory where alfalfa is the only crop that can be raised, and if this is destroyed the farmers will be placed in sore straits and confronted with a more serious problem than is brought about by any other insect known to occur in this country. Over a good portion of the country west of the one hundredth meridian alfalfa is the money crop of the farmers, and any influence tending to prevent or interfere with the cultivation of this, will constitute a calamity throughout that country.