

confident that the reward for such men is great, not merely in pure science, but also in industries and in the arts.

The history of biochemistry in America is similar to that abroad. In America it developed first in the seventies and eighties in the medical schools of the country; and, at that time, it was controlled by physicians and physiologists abroad. The subject was narrowed to the consideration of biochemistry as affecting the life of man. That is to say, the chemical side of physiological processes of the human body together with such considerations of bacteriological chemistry as affect man in health and in disease. This phase of biochemistry is cared for very adequately and acceptably by the American Society of Biological Chemists, the first biochemical society to be formed in America.

The phase of biochemistry which the American Chemical Society can very naturally expect to encourage are quite distinct from the aims of the American Society of Biological Chemists. Our usefulness will include the biochemistry affecting agriculture, phytochemistry in particular, and such industrial processes as are based upon biochemical reactions. For example, the more exact study of the chemical composition of fruits, grains and food products. It must be admitted that, at present, we know only those chemical substances occurring in considerable amounts in such important grains as wheat and corn. The minor constituents in grains of much importance have not been identified with exactness. If we consider grains of less importance even this degree of knowledge can not be claimed.

Some of our most important modern industries, like those dealing with starch, artificial fabrics, leather tanning materials, glue and gelatin, meat packing and the flour-milling industry require biochemists, and we are now training men to deal with such practical problems.

If our society confines itself to the activities already mentioned, there still remains a wide field of biochemistry uncared for, the biochemistry of the lower animals. This part of

the biochemical work will become a part of the work in the zoological societies of the country. My view is that three societies of biological chemistry can well exist in America without competing in any way and each one caring for a specific need. These would include the biochemistry of the higher animals and its application to medicine; the biochemistry of the lower animals, and biochemistry in its application to plants, agriculture and the industries.

CARL L. ALSBERG

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*MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON POLICY  
OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF  
SCIENCE*

THE committee on policy met at the Cosmos Club, Washington, on November 17, 1913, at 8 P.M., Chairman Minot presiding. Messrs. Fairchild, Nichols, Humphreys, Cattell and Howard were also present.

The permanent secretary made an ad interim report of progress, stating that, unexpectedly, news from the Pacific Coast Division had been delayed by reason of floods and that his office was not definitely informed of action taken by that committee. He stated that the committee having power to appoint the temporary secretary for the South had selected Dr. Robert M. Odgen, of the University of Tennessee, and that he had been actively engaged in the work since October 1, and a letter which he sent out to southern members was read. The report on membership showed a satisfactory increase. With regard to the Atlanta meeting, the permanent secretary stated that, owing to delay upon the part of the Atlanta local committee, the preliminary announcement was not yet in type but that he expected to be ready to mail it before the end of the month.

The arrangements for the Atlanta meeting were discussed and it was decided to have two evening lectures, complimentary to the citizens of Atlanta, one by Dr. C. W. Stiles, of the Public Health Service, on the Health of the Mother in the South, and one by Professor Charles E. Munroe, of the George Washington

University, on Explosives Made and Used in the South during the Civil War. It was decided to hold the retiring presidential address on Monday night, December 29.

A discussion as to the future meetings of the association was taken up and, on motion, it was resolved to recommend to the next general committee that Toronto be selected for the convocation week meeting of 1915-1916.

It was resolved that efforts be made to hold large representative convocation week meetings at four-year intervals, the first to be held in New York in 1916-1917 and the second in Chicago in 1920-1921.

The permanent secretary was ordered to report to the affiliated societies that the committee on policy has under consideration the advisability of meeting in 1917-1918 at Columbus, Urbana or Cincinnati, in 1918-1919 at Boston, and in 1919-1920 at St. Louis or Nashville.

On motion, the permanent secretary was instructed to inform the affiliated societies that the committee on policy has recommended that efforts be made to hold large convocation week meetings in New York in 1916-1917 and in Chicago in 1920-1921, and to inform the affiliated societies that he has been instructed to forward this information that the societies may plan accordingly.

On motion, the committee on organization and membership was authorized to examine into the desirability and feasibility of organizing local branches of the association.

On motion, it was resolved that the treasurer, in making re-investment of \$20,000 of the permanent funds of the association under the authority of the resolution of the council of December 30, 1911, be authorized by the committee on policy to invest in the best interest-bearing securities permitted by the Massachusetts laws regulating the investment of trust funds and, further, in order to simplify the approval of the committee on policy, as provided for in the resolution, it was resolved that Messrs. Humphreys and Howard be appointed a sub-committee with power to act in approval for the committee on policy on

the investments selected by the treasurer and to assist him in making the selections.

#### THE NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM

THE New York State Museum has recently acquired by gift and purchase a noteworthy series of collections representing the Iroquois and pre-Iroquois cultural relics from within the state. The O. C. Auringer collection from northeastern New York is especially interesting for its many ancient relics of Eskimaudian type and early Algonkian occupation. These are principally from Glen Lake, Saratoga county.

The Raymond G. Dann collection is almost entirely from the historic Seneca village of Totiacton, in Monroe county. It is an interesting illustration of the articles used at the early contact period. Clay vessels and copper pots were found side by side together with very elaborate articles in bone and shell.

The R. D. Loveland and Charles P. Oatman collections from Jefferson county comprise extraordinary series of clay and stone pipes, and a large variety of bone implements and polished stone ceremonials. The collections contain objects from the Eskimaudian and early Algonkian cultures, and of equal if not greater interest is the fine series illustrating the culture of the early Onondaga-Iroquois.

The Frederick H. Crofoot collection is from the Genesee valley and represents the various occupations of the middle portion of the valley. Many crude objects show an early and transient occupation, but in the collection are some remarkable specimens from the Iroquois and from the earlier mound-building people.

The Alva S. Reed collection, brought together from a site near Richmond Mills, Ontario county, represents the culture of a prehistoric Seneca village, one of the few found in that region.

The extensive series brought together by Professor Dwinel F. Thompson, of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, is a typical assemblage of the cultural relics of the upper waters of the Hudson. It contains many valuable