unstable fuchsin, changes in reaction of the agar due to heating or impurity in the chemicals used, etc.

In an experiment in which testing of various stains was the object, the writer used two different lots of Endo agar; one of which was made up with an American peptone, the other with Witte peptone. In all other respects the two lots were identically the same. The formula used in making up the Endo agar was as follows:

5 grams of Liebig's beef extract.
10 grams of peptone.
30 grams of dehydrated agar.
1000 cc of distilled water.

This medium was adjusted to pH 7.0 by Clark's colorimetric method, divided into 100 cc portions and autoclaved at 15 lbs. pressure for 15 minutes. When ready for use the following materials were added to 100 cc of agar: 15 cc of water in which 1 gram of lactose had been dissolved and 10 cc of a 2.5 per cent. sodium sulphite solution in which .5 cc of a 1 to 10 alcoholic solution of basic fuchsin had been decolorized. Plates were poured with this medium and incubated for 24 hours before inoculating to test their sterility.

When these uninoculated plates were examined after incubation a surprising difference in appearance was noted. The sterile plates made from the Witte peptone were colorless while those made from the American peptone were a deep rose pink completely and uniformly diffused over the entire plate. Upon inoculation of duplicate plates of the different media with *Escherichia coli* and *Aerobacter aerogenes* the results were still more striking. After 24 hours' incubation at 37 degrees C. the plates of Witte peptone agar showed a characteristic growth of these organisms. The medium was colorless, except around area of growth where the usual reaction appeared. Those made from the American peptone were a deep, dark red diffused over the entire plate with a darker area in the region of growth. The characteristic coloring of the two organisms was masked by the deep color of the agar.

This work was immediately checked by a duplicate experiment. Two new lots of Endo agar were again made up using the same formula and the two different peptones. Each lot was divided and adjusted to two different reactions, one a distinctly alkaline, and the other neutral. Clark's colorimetric method was used. The same fuchsin was used in both experiments. The results were the same. No difference could be seen in the plates due to difference in reaction.

Sterile plates of each lot were left exposed to the light and air several days. In case of the American peptone plates the color diffused over the plates in 48 hours, while at the end of four days only a faint pink was noted in the Witte peptone plates.

These results indicate that the diffusion of color in Endo agar plates may be influenced by the kind of peptone used. Further experiments are in progress which involve the use of various different kinds of peptone as well as different kinds of fuchsin. These will be reported as soon as they are completed.

ELIZABETH F. GENUNG
SMITH COLLEGE

THE AMERICAN PHYSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

THE thirty-eighth annual meeting of the American Physiological Society was held December 27 and 28, at the Washington University School of Medicine, and December 29, 1923, at the St. Louis University School of Medicine. The meeting was unusually well attended from the central territory and had a fair attendance from the eastern seaboard.

At the annual business meeting the following were the chief events voted by the society:

Announcement was made of the continuation of the Wm. T. Porter Fellowship for physiological research, administered under the auspices of the American Physiological Society. Dr. Florence B. Seibert, Ph.D, of Yale, was appointed research fellow for the second time. Dr. Seibert elected to pursue her research work in the laboratories of Dr. H. Gideon Wells of the University of Chicago.

Report by President A. J. Carlson, the representative of the society on the National Research Council, covered the matter of medical fellowships and called attention to the fact that a number of these fellows had elected to further their training and research in the physiological group.

The representatives of the society on the Council of the Union of American Biological Societies, President A. J. Carlson and C. W. Greene, reported the movement perfecting the plan for publication of a comprehensive Biological Abstracts. Under the chairmanship of Dr. J. R. Schramm, of Cornell University, the details for this publication are now approaching the point where the undertaking will be launched. The union is also fostering the establishment of a tropical biological station, and is assisting in the formation and work of an international committee on nomenclature.

The invitation extended to the International Physiological Congress for the meeting in America in 1925 was placed with the International Committee by the president of the society at the Edinburgh meeting last July. The final decisions, however, have not been made.

Dr. D. R. Hooker was elected managing editor of the *American Journal of Physiology* for the year 1924. The council nominated as the editorial board of

Physiological Reviews for the year 1924 the following: William H. Howell, *chairman,* J. J. R. Macleod, W. J. Meek, D. R. Hooker, L. B. Mendel, H. Gideon Wells, C. W. Edmunds.

The annual financial and editorial reports of the *American Journal of Physiology* and of *Physiological Reviews* show a profitable year and an increase in the credit balance of these publications.

The council approved a policy of restricting research articles for the *American Journal of Physiology* as regards the overlapping field of related sciences, *i. e.,* to a more strictly physiological classification, but did not wish to make distinction within the group. The minute adopted covering this point is as follows:

> The council, recognizing the general principle of not accepting papers that clearly belong to fields of other publications, feels that there should be no invariable barrier of papers of distinct physiological merit and that a paper should not be barred because of the nature of the material on which it was worked out.

A proposition that the American Physiological Society consider publication of manuals of more technical physiological nature was made before the society, but it was the consensus of opinion that our financial resources did not justify the assumption at present of additional publication obligations. The motion failed.

The officers elected for the ensuing year are:

A. J. Carlson, University of Chicago, *president;* Walter J. Meek, University of Wisconsin, *secretary;* C. K. Drinker, Harvard Medical School, *treasurer;* Walter E. Garrey, Tulane University, councilman for the term 1924–27.

The following scientists were elected to membership:

F. G. Banting, M.B., M.D., LL.D., D.Sc., professor of medical research, University of Toronto.

Charles Herbert Best, A.B., A.M., director, insulin division, Connaught Laboratories, University of Toronto.

George H. Bishop, A.B., Ph.D., associate in physiology, Washington University Medical School.

Sumner Cushing Brooks, B.Sc., Ph.D., biologist, Hygienic Laboratory, U. S. Public Health Service.

Matilda Moldenhauer Brooks, A.B., M.S., Ph.D., associate biologist, Hygienic Laboratory, U. S. Public Health Service.

McKeen Cattell, B.S., M.A., Ph.D., teaching fellow in pharmacology, Harvard Medical School.

Charles M. Child, Ph.D., professor of zoology, University of Chicago.

R. S. Cunningham, B.S., A.M., M.D., associate in anatomy, Johns Hopkins University.

George Raymond Cowgill, B.A., Ph.D., instructor in physiological chemistry, Yale University.

Max M. Ellis, A.B., A.M., Ph.D., Sc.D., associate professor of physiology, University of Missouri.

N. F. Fisher, Ph.D., assistant professor of physiology, Baylor Medical College.

Fred R. Griffith, A.B., A.M., Ph.D., assistant professor of physiology, University of Buffalo.

Nathaniel Kleitman, S.M., Ph.D., fellow in physiology, National Research Council. (Working in the University of Utrecht).

K. I. Lashley, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology, University of Minnesota.

Chauncey D. Leake, M.S., Ph.D., assistant professor of pharmacology, University of Wisconsin.

Robert K. S. Lim, M.B., Ch.B., Ph.D., professor of physiology, University of Amoy, China.

Annie S. Minot, A.B., Ph.D., research assistant, Industrial Medicine Lead Fund, Harvard Medical School.

Erwin Ellis Nelson, A.B., A.M., Ph.D., assistant professor of pharmacology, University of Michigan.

Carlos Isaac Reed, A.M., associate professor of physiology and hygiene, University of Kansas.

Florence R. Sabine, M.D., Sc.D., professor of histology, Johns Hopkins University.

Richard E. Scammon, A.B., A.M., Ph.D., professor of anatomy, University of Minnesota.

Henry Clapp Sherman, B.S., Sc.D., A.M., Ph.D., professor of food chemistry, Columbia University.

Arthur H. Smith, B.Sc., M.S., Ph.D., instructor in physiological chemistry, Yale University.

Homer W. Smith, B.A., D.Sc.H., fellow in medical sciences, National Research Council.

Philip E. Smith, B.S., M.S., Ph.D., associate professor of anatomy, University of California.

Harvey Lester White, B.S., M.D., associate in physiology, Washington University.

The program throughout was of sustained scientific interest. Outstanding features were the discussions on the hormones, especially the hormones of the Islands of Langerhans and of the pituitary body. However, the program covered the entire range of the very diversified interests of American physiologists. There were two combined programs, three society programs, and one afternoon demonstration. The individual titles are not republished here, but the total number presented by the physiologists was 67 out of a grand total of 211 before the federation.

The following resolution of appreciation was passed at the closing business session:

> The American Physiological Society desires to place on record its appreciation of the excellent manner in which arrangements have been carried out for the meetings of the American Physiological Society at St. Louis and to thank especially the local committee of the Washington University School of Medicine and of the St. Louis University School of Medicine for their very successful efforts in this direction.

CHARLES W. GREENE,
Secretary