

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MAMMALOGISTS

THE seventh annual meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists was held at the U. S. National Museum in Washington, D. C., from April 7 to 11, 1925, with 78 members in attendance. The 31 papers presented during the morning and afternoon sessions were of an unusual order of excellence and included many of much popular as well as technical interest. Outstanding features were an illustrated evening lecture by President W. H. Osgood, entitled "On Darwin's trail in South America," and the presentation of "Vanishing game trails of Africa," a remarkable film secured by W. P. Harris, Jr. Moving pictures illustrated two of the other papers as well.

The annual dinner on April 9 was well attended, the feature of the menu being roast buffalo, while elk meat figured at the luncheon, two days later, which was tendered the members and their wives by the administration of the National Zoological Park and the Washington contingent.

At the usual directors' and business meeting the following officers were elected: *President*, Wilfred H. Osgood; *vice-presidents*, W. D. Matthew, Glover M. Allen; *recording secretary*, H. H. Lane; *corresponding secretary*, A. Brazier Howell; *treasurer*, Arthur J. Poole; *editor*, Hartley H. T. Jackson.

During the session the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, Plans have been made for introducing large numbers of Plains Buffalos annually into the Wood Buffalo Park of northern Alberta, and

WHEREAS, The American Society of Mammalogists, a professional society of international membership, including practically all field naturalists who are interested in mammals, feels that serious results would occur from carrying out the above-mentioned plans, viz.:

(A) Interbreeding would take place between the races of the Plains Buffalo and Wood Buffalo so that the distinctive characteristics of the Wood Buffalo would be lost in a few generations and in this way the largest and noblest game animal of North America would pass out of existence as such.

(B) The new arrivals and mixed descendants of the two races of buffalo would be less fitted to carry on the struggle for existence in northern Alberta than is the native race of Wood Buffalo.

(C) Tuberculosis and other diseases would be likely to be transmitted with harmful effects to the northern herd.

(D) Owing to the restricted range of the Wood Buffalos and the limited amount of food available, overcrowding would follow so that the proposed plan would afford only a temporary means of disposing of the surplus of Plains Buffalos: therefore, be it

Resolved, That the American Society of Mammalogists express its earnest hope that some other means may be

found of disposing of the surplus Plains Buffalos, and, be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Department of the Interior of Canada and to the organizations interested in wild-life conservation.

The meeting for 1926 will be held during April at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

A. BRAZIER HOWELL,
Corresponding Secretary

WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

THE twenty-third western meeting of the American Mathematical Society was held at the University of Chicago on April 10 and 11, 1925.

The council elected to sustaining membership Amherst College, Harvard University, the Maccabees, the Missouri State Life Insurance Company, the Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Company, the Prudential Insurance Company and the Travelers' Insurance Company. Eleven persons were elected to ordinary membership and twenty nominees of sustaining members were elected. It was announced that through the efforts of the committee on endowment, the society now has four patron members and twenty-nine sustaining members.

The summer meeting and colloquium will be held at Cornell University from September 8 to 12. Colloquium lectures will be given by Professor L. P. Eisenhart on "The new differential geometry" and Professor Dunham Jackson on "The theory of approximation." The western Christmas meeting of the society will be held in Kansas City in conjunction with the meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. One of the features of this meeting will be the third Josiah Willard Gibbs lecture by Professor J. Pierpont, of Yale University, on "Some modern views of space."

On Friday afternoon Professor W. D. MacMillan, of the University of Chicago, delivered a lecture on "Some mathematical aspects of cosmology." The other papers presented at this meeting are listed below. The papers by Messrs. Reilly, Bennett, Caris, Shohat and Wilson and Mr. Ingraham's second paper were read by title. The sessions were presided over by President Birkhoff and Vice-president Hildebrandt.

Cubic curves and desmic surfaces: R. M. MATHEWS.

Another poristic system of triangles: RUFUS CRANE.

A general theory of nets on a surface: V. G. GROVE.

On surfaces and curves which are invariant under involutory Cremona transformations: ARNOLD EMCH.

Mean curvature curves on quadric surfaces: E. E. LIBMAN.

Interpolation formulas containing parameters: J. F. REILLY.

On sets of three consecutive integers which are quadratic residues of primes: A. A. BENNETT.

A solution of the quadratic congruence, modulo p , $p = 8n + 1$, n odd: PERRY A. CARIS.

The nullity of a matrix relative to a field: C. C. MACDUFFEE.

On groups of order p^m which contain an abelian subgroup of order p^{m-1} : H. A. BENDER.

On orders of operators in the group of isomorphisms of prime power abelian groups: H. A. BENDER.

Imprimitive substitution groups: G. A. MILLER.

On a problem in diophantine analysis: G. E. WAHLIN.
Expansions in terms of solutions of partial differential equations, third paper: C. C. CAMP.

Non-synchronized relative invariant integrals: K. P. WILLIAMS.

On some properties of polynomials: J. A. SHOHAT.

On functions of closest approximation: H. L. SMITH.

On the convergence of certain processes of closest approximation over an infinite interval: DUNHAM JACKSON.

On vector analysis in function space—preliminary communication: DUNHAM JACKSON.

Two related functional equations: W. H. WILSON.

On thermal convection: R. W. BABCOCK.

The deflection of a rectangular plate with two opposite edges supported and two edges free: H. W. MARCH.

Solution of certain functional equations relative to a general number system: M. H. INGRAHAM.

Postulates for order on a closed line: I. Reversible order (separation of point-pairs): E. V. HUNTINGTON.

On the classification of linear algebras: J. B. SHAW.

Associated types of linear connection: LOUIS INGOLD.

The geometry of a set of n vectors: LOUIS INGOLD.

On a central difference summation formula: W. A. JENKINS.

Note on prime factors: J. S. TURNER.

Surfaces with constant absolute invariants: P. G. ROBINSON.

A general theory of linear sets: M. H. INGRAHAM.

ARNOLD DRESDEN,
Assistant Secretary

MADISON, WISCONSIN

CONFERENCE OF APPARATUS MAKERS AND USERS

THE annual meeting of the National Research Council's Committee of Scientific Apparatus Makers and Users was held April 23 at the building of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Research Council.

It was decided that the committee ought to be continued and the executive committee of last year was reelected. It is constituted as follows: W. D. Collins, Geological Survey, chairman; Paul Moore, National Research Council, secretary; George K. Burgess, Bureau of Standards; A. L. Day, Geophysical Labora-

tory; M. E. Leeds, Leeds and Northrup; F. K. Richtmyer, Cornell University; J. M. Roberts, Central Scientific Company.

A number of reports of work done by various organizations along the lines in which the committee is interested were made.

Professor F. K. Richtmyer told of the progress of the *Journal of the Optical Society of America and Review of Scientific Instruments*, which had increased in circulation and had devoted last year 857 pages to instruments of all kinds, including optical, out of 1,544 pages of text.

Paul Moore told of some of the informational work of the Research Information Service of the National Research Council, which, while it had its limitations, had also some facilities for the guiding of inquirers as to sources of apparatus.

Mr. Collins presented a brief report from Dr. R. M. Meiklejohn, to the effect that the Committee on Standardization of the Manufacturing Chemists' Association had continued to assist in the more general adoption of its report issued in 1922. The committee specifications agreed in the main with those recommended by the American Chemical Society as regards elimination of items, the Manufacturing Chemists' Association giving more details of dimensions and tests.

Dr. Fay C. Brown, of the Bureau of Standards, chairman of the American Physical Society's committee, was not able to report much progress in the success of the recommendations of his committee in the standardization of rods, clamps and bases. In a discussion of this situation suggestions were made that while the adoption of the National Screw Threads Commissions' standards would be a fine thing, it would involve changes in almost every laboratory of the country, working a hardship; but new thread standards might be adopted in connection with any new apparatus, just as it was expected there would be more uniformity in the care of newly designed electric meters.

Mr. J. M. Roberts, secretary of the American Association of Scientific Apparatus' Manufacturers of the United States, said that body had considered a number of new items in the chemical glassware division and expected to continue investigations along the line of elimination.

Mr. Collins presented also the report of the American Chemical Society's Committee on Standard Apparatus.

The National Research Council's committee consists of representatives of various organizations and a number of members at large, all interested in procurement of apparatus and instruments.

F. K. RICHTMYER