

**THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR
THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE
THE MILLS COLLEGE MEETING OF THE
PACIFIC DIVISION**

WESTERN SOCIETY OF NATURALISTS

(A. G. Vestal, *Acting Secretary*)

ON Thursday morning, a symposium was held on "The Value of Biology to Civilization." Each speaker presented aspects of the situation which were novel to his hearers. Dr. C. A. Kofoed described the value to culture of a knowledge of plants and animals, as a basis for development of art, and as an increasing enrichment of the art of living. Dr. R. C. Miller stressed the desirability of sympathetic liaison between "pure" and "applied" biological science. Dr. H. S. Reed presented the value of biology to economic life as illustrated by food plants. An incidental point brought out is that certain ancient peoples showed much greater acumen than we have thought in selecting and improving useful varieties. A not too immediately hopeful view of the problems of race-improvement and population was presented by Dr. F. B. Sumner. The difficulties are in determining how to apply biological knowledge already possessed.

The afternoon was devoted to a joint meeting with the Ecological Society of America. Joseph Grinnell, in an account of geographic distribution and variation in both Upper and Lower California, showed how numerous series of bird species or varieties exhibit degrees of morphological difference which are roughly proportional to the distances separating them. A paper by W. E. Allen emphasized the limitations of our ways of finding out essential features in the life of marine organisms, and the need of continuity, in space and in time, of investigation of life in the sea as the only means of offsetting these difficulties. G. P. Rixford described the possibility of growing the avocado in certain foothill areas in central California. E. N. Munns advocated a broad biological viewpoint from which to regard problems of forestry, inasmuch as the forest is a very inclusive biological community of very many kinds of plants and animals, all interacting upon one another in most far-reaching ways, and therefore all and together requiring careful study before economic policies can best be formulated.

**AMERICAN PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY—PACIFIC
DIVISION**

(B. A. Rudolph, *secretary*)

THE Pacific Division of the American Phytopathological Society meeting at Mills College, California, June 16 to 19, elected the following officers for the year 1926-1927:

W. S. Ballard, President.
D. G. Milbrath, Vice-President.
B. A. Rudolph, Secretary-Treasurer.
W. T. Horne, Councillor.

Eleven papers were presented, and there were discussions with leaders as follows:

Ecological Aspects of Pathological Problems in the Arid West, M. Shapovalov.

Plant Disease Survey, R. J. Haskell.

The Nature of the Contagium in Virus Diseases of Plants, T. E. Rawlins.

Among visiting members of the parent society were Drs. R. J. Haskell, in charge Plant Disease Survey, U. S. D. A., and H. B. Humphrey, chief, Cereal Disease Investigations, U. S. D. A., both of whom gave delightfully informal talks on the immediate work being done in their respective offices.

Professor R. E. Smith's paper, "Transpiration as a Pathological Factor," a digest of the literature covering the multitude of vague and indefinite diseases so frequently associated with defective transpiration, was one of the most appreciated of all. The tedious work of assembling in a comprehensible résumé the vast data and numerous theories relative to the subject received many warm expressions of approval.

Dr. H. J. Weber's informal account of the citrus industry of South Africa was not only graphically and charmingly told, but it covered in detail many technical phases of the more important problems met with in that country.

Papers by M. Shapovalov, T. E. Rawlins, O. A. Plunkett, Wm. T. Horne, H. N. Hansen and W. W. Mackie were enthusiastically received. Covering widely dissociated fields of investigation each of these papers provoked no small amount of discussion. Since abstracts of all of them will soon appear in *Phytopathology* the subject matter will not be discussed here.

Resolutions were passed expressing the profound regret and deep sense of loss occasioned by the passing of Dr. G. R. Lyman, past president and secretary-treasurer of the American Phytopathological Society. A copy of the resolutions was sent to Mrs. Lyman and another was read upon the minutes of the society.

The very generous entertainment provided the visiting scientists by the city commissioners of Oakland was deeply appreciated by all. Boat rides about San Francisco Bay, to say nothing of automobile rides throughout the scenic regions of Alameda County, made it impossible for spare time to drag on any one's hands.

Similarly the sincere efforts on the part of the authorities of Mills College to provide every convenience for making the visitors comfortable and the meetings a success were acknowledged with gratitude.

Simplicity and informality struck the keynote of the meetings of the Pacific Division of the American Phytopathological Society this year, and the few days in June on which these meetings were held will not soon be forgotten.