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THE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN PARASITOLOGY¹

IN these days of many organizations and calls for service in so many directions where work and workers are clearly needed, the formation of any new society can be justified only on the basis of imperative necessity. Such a necessity may be evidenced by the importance of the topic and a rapidly growing content of special knowledge; or the increase in the number of workers in the special field may demand some means of discussing and coordinating the service which this field can render. Yet, if all this be true, the demand can be justified not merely because it is so imperative at the moment that it can not be resisted, but rather that it gives clear promise of continuing future opportunity and need. Otherwise science will not justify the waste of time and the dissipation of energy which should rightly be devoted to more permanent ends.

Now all these conditions are satisfied in full measure by the facts in the field of parasitology to-day. Indeed the situation seemed clear some years ago to those who were working in this particular line, but in common with others I resisted the movement for the organization of a new special society in the effort to achieve the necessary results through cooperation with existing agencies. But that affiliation did not prove adequate to meet the needs which were growing with startling rapidity, and one may say justly that the formation of the new American Society of Parasitologists was forced on us by the pressure of circumstance.

Substantial justification of this action is found in the fact that to-day the membership roll includes more than three hundred names, although the society has not passed its first birthday, and that it brings together at this meeting about one sixth of that membership for active participation in the work of the organization. This is a record rarely if ever equalled in a national society with a membership which covers in fact the length and breadth of our country and even goes beyond those limits. Surely the membership may properly be called active and the organization justified from the standpoint of numbers and interest. Did time permit, further justification would appear in a survey of the number of courses on the demand for such instructions from students in

¹ Address of the President read at the first annual meeting of the American Society of Parasitologists, Kansas City, Dec. 30, 1925.

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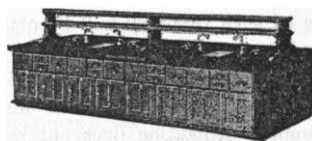


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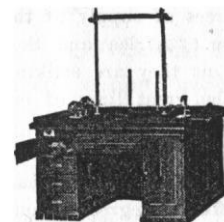
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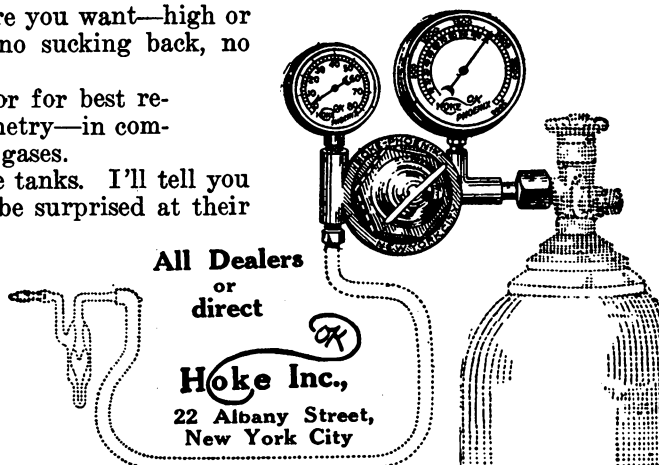
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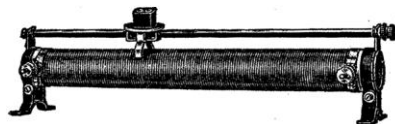
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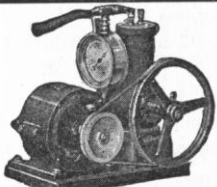
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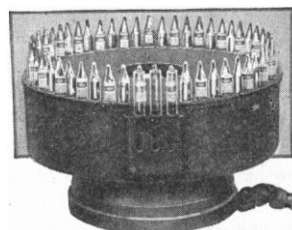
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