While the crickets have evolved tone in their musical expressions, the matter of technique such as the katydids have specialized upon, seems quite beyond their moods at present. Yet if any of our crickets could strike pure musical tones upon the individual chitin-bars, as the larger angular-winged katydid is attempting to do with its sounds, their tinkling chimes would mark a new era in the spontaneous expressions of insects. A number of the katydids have evolved complicated little instrumental "songs," involving wide departures in time-relations and variety of phrases, from the simple repetitive rhythms of the more primitive type. All this marks some unconscious specialization, it would seem, toward a fuller self-expression with the potentialities of sound.

It is hard to see just how an uncouth and prehistoric scaled-reptilian type should evolve into a beautiful bird, feathered, songful or finally into an inimitable hermit thrush with a soul sensitized for music or pleasurable sounds and whispered tonal harmonies. Yet the lowly insects with their primitive musical instruments, a simple file-vein and scraper, are following the same trend, it would seem. Tonality they have, in the case of the crickets; highly specialized technique and variety they have in the case of the katydids; rhythm and even an ear for synchronous rhythm is evident in both great groups. Is it something unconscious, external and cosmic operating upon life, or is there a subconscious urge, which sooner or later becomes translated into the conscious experience of life? Surely, now are the crickets and katydids conscious of their sound-experiences, but the methods, the genesis of it all constitute a mystery as deep as life itself. The individual seems to have as little to do with it all as the individual cells of our bodies have to do with our own running, our talking, seeing or what-not in body-behavior as a whole. The organic unfolding of the phylum at times seems to be the unit, with the individual functioning as a mere cell in its continuity, but this savors too much of the ultimate meaning of life of which we can have no adequate concept.

H. A. ALLARD

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

THE KENTUCKY ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

THE Kentucky Academy of Science held its fifteenth annual meeting at the University of Kentucky May 12, President Valleau presiding at the general sessions, at one of which Dr. E. C. Stakman, of Minnesota, representative of the American Association for the Advancement of Science to the academy, delivered a very interesting lecture on biologic specialization.

The three divisions, biological sciences, physical sciences and philosophy and psychology, had full programs of papers.

Officers elected were:

G. Davis Buckner, University of Kentucky, *president.*
George D. Smith, Eastern State Normal School, Richmond, *vice-president.*
A. M. Peter, University of Kentucky, *secretary.*
W. S. Anderson, University of Kentucky, *treasurer.*
A. R. Middleton, University of Louisville, *representative* in the council of the A. A. A. S.
Division of Physical Sciences—W. R. Jillson, *chairman;* C. S. Crouse, secretary.
Division of Biological Sciences—G. D. Buckner, *chairman;* E. N. Fergus, *secretary.*
Division of Philosophy and Psychology—R. M. Bear, Centre College, Danville, *chairman and secretary.*

A. M. PETER,
Secretary.

THE NORTH DAKOTA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

THE twentieth annual meeting of the North Dakota Academy of Science was held at the North Dakota Agricultural College on May 4 and 5. Dr. H. L. Walster, dean of the School of Agriculture of the North Dakota Agricultural College, presented the president's address on the theme "The Pursuit of Science in North Dakota." A notable feature of the program was the showing by Mr. Russell Reid, of the North Dakota State Historical Society, of a series of fifty colored lantern slides showing the beauty spots in western North Dakota and illustrating the characteristics and nesting habits of many North Dakota birds.

In his invitation address on "The Biological Value of Practical Agricultural Experimentation," Dr. J. Arthur Harris, head of the department of botany of the University of Minnesota, urged the point of view that much of the material results from agricultural experimentation could, through careful biometrical analysis and similar studies, be made to yield much material of great value in pure science.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President—Dr. G. A. Talbert, professor of physiology, University of North Dakota.

Vice-president—Dean R. M. Dolve, school of mechanic arts, North Dakota Agricultural College.

Secretary-Treasurer—Dr. G. A. Abbott, professor of chemistry, University of North Dakota.

Additional members of Executive Committee: Professor J. H. Seymour, Valley City State Teachers' College; Professor C. H. McLees, School of Forestry, Bottineau.

Representative of the North Dakota Academy of Science on the council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science—Dr. H. L. Walster, dean, School of Agriculture, North Dakota Agricultural College.