prejudice or want of sympathetic understanding there. The institute at Leningrad will need plenty of means, which the government is presumably prepared to supply, and an open mind toward all who can serve its purpose.

I do not exaggerate when I say that scientists in the United States look with admiration and with a certain amount of envy upon the All-Union Institute of Experimental Medicine and its magnificent program, and with respect upon a government that is ready to give its support in so liberal a measure to the search for truth and the promotion of human well-being.

S. S. GOLDWATER

DEPARTMENT OF HOSPITALS
NEW YORK, N. Y.

SOCIETIES AND MEETINGS

THE WESTERN SOCIETY OF NATURALISTS

THE sixth annual winter meeting of the Western Society of Naturalists was held at Asilomar, Pacific Grove, Calif., on December 27, 28 and 29, 1933, with Dr. S. C. Brooks presiding. The meetings included three symposia on subjects of special interest and two evening meetings as well as a series of submitted papers.

The first symposium, arranged by Dr. C. V. Taylor, was entitled "Internal Environments in Amphibian Morphogenesis." It included the following papers: "Rôle of the Organizer in the Axial Development of Amphibia," by J. Frank Daniel, of the University of California; "Non-glandular Regulation of Relative Growth in Amphibia," by V. C. Twitty, of Stanford University; "Hormone Action in Amphibian Development," by B. M. Allen, of the University of California at Los Angeles; and "Temperature Gradients in Amphibian Development," by F. G. Gilchrist, of Pomona.

"Environmental Effects on Plants" was the title of the second symposium. It included the following papers: "Environmental Transformation of Bacteria," by W. H. Manwaring, of Stanford University; "Cytogenetic Effects of High Frequency Radiations on Plants," by T. H. Goodspeed, of the University of California; "On the Environmental Modifiability of Certain Plant Forms," by W. M. Heusi, of the Carnegie Institution of Washington; "Distribution of Newfoundland Desmids," by Wm. R. Taylor, of the University of Michigan; and "Influence of Environmental Factors on Smut Infection in Wheat Species," by F. N. Briggs, of the University of California at Davis.

The third symposium, "Growth-promoting Substances," was arranged by Dr. H. M. Evans, of the University of California. It included the following papers: "Growth Hormones in Plants," by F. W. Went, of the California Institute of Technology; "The Preparation and Chemistry of the Growth Hormone," by Dr. Thimann, of the California Institute of Technology; "The Growth Hormone of the Anterior Lobe of the Hypophysis," by M. E. Simpson, of the University of California; and "Relation of Glutathione Concentration to Growth," by H. Goss, of the University of California at Davis.

Dr. T. Wayland Vaughan presented one paper on "Recent Progress in Oceanographic Investigations of the Pacific and Present Trends of Marine Biological Research" and, in the absence of W. E. Allen and W. R. Coe, a second entitled "A Study of Fouling Organisms." Dr. A. E. Hopkins presented certain experimental observations on spawning and setting in the Olympia oyster. The morphological changes of sexual maturity in the salmon, the Alaska herring populations and mortality of the herring were discussed by Drs. F. A. Davidson, G. A. Rounsefell and E. H. Dahlgren, respectively, all of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, Seattle.

Certain phases of the life history, morphology and physiology of some species of protozoa were discussed in a series of papers presented by Drs. H. W. Graham, G. H. Ball, A. G. R. Strickland and M. G. Brown, respectively. Dr. Wm. A. Hilton discussed the ratio of nervous tissues to body tissues in a variety of forms. The evidence for the development of ligaments from muscles in the pocket gopher was presented by Mr. J. E. Hill. The antagonistic action of methylene blue to the action of certain respiratory poisons, as determined from experiments on marine eggs, was discussed by Dr. M. M. Brooks. A report on the determination of the non-solvent volume of marine eggs was given by Dr. J. L. Leitch. Dr. A. C. Giese reported on some experimental studies on the factors inducing conjugation in Paramecium. The relation of the redox potential of cell suspensions to cytochrome was discussed by Dr. J. P. Baumberger. Dr. L. R. Blinks presented some bioelectric measurements made on plant cells.

Besides the above papers the following were read by title only: "The Spawning Behavior of the Little Redfish, *Oncorhynchus nerka,* with Notes on Related Species of Salmon," by L. P. Schultz; "Growth Curves of Protozoan Population in Sterile Medium," by Austin Phelps; and "Experimental Studies in Motivation of Sex Behavior in Rats," by C. P. Stone.

Microcinematographs of micrurgical technique and experiments and of cells in the microscope centrifuge

were shown at one evening meeting. The society was indebted to Professor Robert Chambers and Professor E. Newton Harvey for the use of these films. After the society dinner, Dean Charles B. Lipman, of the University of California, delivered the principal address of the meeting, "The Tolerance of Extreme Temperatures by Plants."

JAMES L. LEITCH

THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE MOVEMENT IN WASHINGTON, D. C.

WHEN the History of Science Society meets in Washington, D. C., during the coming Christmas season of 1934 to celebrate its tenth anniversary, it will also celebrate the first anniversary of what may be termed its first offspring, the Washington-Baltimore Section of the History of Science Society. The parent society was organized in Boston, Mass., on January 12, 1924, and it is an interesting coincidence that on January 10, 1934, nearly ten years to a day later, the first local section came into being. On that day a small group of members of the History of Science Society met at the Cosmos Club in Washington to discuss the advisability of meeting informally to foster our common interest, stimulate activity in the movement and study of the history of science and to entertain distinguished scholars and students of our subject who may from time to time visit our city.

Present at this meeting were Dr. C. A. Browne, chief of the U. S. Bureau of Chemistry and Soils; F. E. Brasch, secretary-treasurer of the History of Science Society; Dr. J. F. Couch, Bureau of Animal Industry; Dr. C. L. Shear, Bureau of Plant Industry; Watson Davis, director of Science Service; Dr. S. F. Bemis, department of history, George Washington University; O. A. Morgner, bibliophile; R. LeGear and M. C. Leikind, of the Library of Congress.

An informal organization was agreed upon and Dr. J. F. Couch and M. C. Leikind were elected chairman and secretary, respectively. In view of the fact that about forty members of the History of Science Society are distributed between Washington and Baltimore it was decided to call this section the Washington-Baltimore Section. The first regular meeting took the form of a dinner in honor of George Sarton, research associate of the Carnegie Institution of Washington and editor of *Isis*. Thirty-eight members, including a delegation from Baltimore, were in attendance at this most successful meeting, which was held in the Cosmos Club on the evening of January 27.

The list of guests and speakers included, besides Dr. Sarton, Dr. John C. Merriam, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington; Sir Henry Wellcome, of London, England, founder of the Wellcome Museums in the History of Science and Medicine; Professor Henry E. Sigerist, director of the Institute of the History of Medicine of the Johns Hopkins University; Dean Dorothy Stimson, of Goucher College; Dr. Fielding H. Garrison, librarian of the Welch Medical Library, and Dr. C. A. Browne, chief of the U. S. Bureau of Chemistry and Soils.

The response and interest shown at this first meeting was so enthusiastic that we hope our example may serve as a stimulus for the formation of similar groups in other cities. It is by the organization of local chapters which will meet at frequent intervals during the year that the real influence of the History of Science Society will begin to assert itself.

The growth of the History of Science movement is indicative of the fact that history is no longer the exclusive domain of the social scientists and philosophers. The importance of the history of science as one of the foundation pillars in the history of civilization and culture is being given increasing recognition not only by individual scientists and scholars but by the curriculum making bodies of colleges and universities.

At a time when extreme specialization seems to be destroying the cultural and humanitarian aspects of science, the field of the history of science provides the one meeting ground where students of special sciences may meet and talk a common tongue. For, to quote Dr. Sarton, "The history of science is the history of mankind's unity, of its sublime purpose, of its gradual redemption."

We of the Washington-Baltimore Section hope that when the History of Science Society meets in Washington at the end of the year we shall be only one of a large number of local sections.

MORRIS C. LEIKIND,
Secretary, Washington-Baltimore Section, History of Science Society
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

SCIENTIFIC APPARATUS AND LABORATORY METHODS

A RAPID METHOD FOR THE PREPARATION OF DELAFIELD'S HAEMATOXYLIN

THE usual procedure in preparing Delafield's Haematoxylin requires a long ripening period. This ripening may be reduced from sixty days to three hours by use of the method described in this paper.

Delafield's Haematoxylin was prepared in the usual manner: