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:

Haematoxylin crystals	4 gms.
Alcohol 95 per cent.	25 cc
Sat. sol. of ammonia alum	400 cc

This solution was placed in an open dish, at a distance of 15 cms from a Cooper-Hewitt burner, operating at 140 volts and 3.3 amperes, for one hour. The solution was then filtered and to the filtrate was added:

Methyl alcohol	100 cc
Glycerine	100 cc

This solution was placed under the Cooper-Hewitt burner at the same distance for two hours. The solution was then filtered and used for staining purposes.

No appreciable difference was noticed between the staining quality of the Haematoxylin prepared in this manner and that left for sixty days to ripen.

H. W. NEILD

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

SOAP AS A MOSQUITO LARVICIDE

DURING some experiments with mosquito larvicides the writer has observed that the addition of soap has brought about a much larger increase in toxicity to mosquito larvae than that which could be ascribed to improved penetration. This suggested that soap may possess direct toxicity to mosquito larvae. To verify this point tests were carried out with a liquid soap, consisting of a mixture of potassium oleate and cocoanut oil soap containing about 40 per cent. actual soap.

For this purpose larvae and pupae, taken from a partially polluted ditch breeding primarily *C. pipiens,* were transferred to large porcelain dishes containing about 500 cc of a mixture of tap water and ditch water. Various concentrations of soap were then mixed in. After 24 hours the number of dead and living insects were counted.

The results, given in the accompanying table, clearly show that concentrations of 0.2 per cent. soap or higher gave 100 per cent. kill of larvae and pupae.

The value of soap as a larvicide can perhaps be utilized in treating clear standing water, fire barrels, etc., where application of oil or larvicides containing toxic or inflammable chemicals are objectionable.

TOXICITY OF SOAP TO MOSQUITO LARVAE AND PUPAE

Per cent. soap concentration	Number of larvae	Per cent. dead after 24 hours	Number of pupae	Per cent. dead after 24 hours
0.05	80	20	40	5
0.10	100	65	60	55
0.20	80	100	60	100
0.50	60	100	40	100
1.00	80	100	80	100
Check	100	0	60	0

JOSEPH M. GINSBURG

N. J. AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

FIXING THE PRINT OF CARBON COPIES

THE tendency of the print to become smudgy in use in bound copies of dissertations, etc., may be almost entirely eliminated by a simple treatment, that is, of melting the colored wax of the print by heat into the fibers of the paper. This may be accomplished by passing a tall Bunsen flame rapidly over the surface of the sheet. The paper should be lying flat on a smooth, good-conducting surface while flaming. After such a heat treatment the sheets are somewhat warped but may be readily flattened out in a good binder's press.

ALDEN F. ROE

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

SPECIAL ARTICLES

DEUTERIUM OXIDE AND ASPERGILLUS

RECENT investigations seem to indicate that deuterium oxide in high concentrations exerts a toxic or inhibitory effect on living organisms, both plant and animal. However, as a result of his work with *Spirogyra sp.,* it was suggested by Barnes[1] that very unusual and interesting effects might be noted when the deuterium was used in less concentrated solutions. This suggestion has received confirmation and support by Richards,[2] whose observations on the growth of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* indicate that, in dilute concentrations, deuterium may have a decided effect in accelerating growth and development as opposed to its pronounced lethal effect in high concentrations. Macht and Davis,[3] using a solution of one part deuterium to two thousand parts of protium, expressed

[1] T. C. Barnes, "A Possible Physiological Effect of the Heavy Isotope of H in Water," *Jour. Am. Chem. Soc.,* 55: 4332–4333, 1933; "Further Observations on the Physiological Effect of the Heavy Hydrogen Isotope on Spirogyra," *Am. Jour. Bot.,* 20: 681–682, 1933.

[2] O. W. Richards, "The Growth of Yeast in Water Containing Deuterium," *Am. Jour. Bot.,* 20: 679–680, 1933.

[3] D. I. Macht and M. E. Davis, "Some Pharmacological Experiments with Deuterium," *Jour. Am. Chem. Soc.,* 56: 246, 1934.