

MacBride published his second edition of the "North American Slime Moulds" in 1922.

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### EMERGENT EVOLUTION

*The Universe and Life.* By H. S. JENNINGS. Yale University Press, New Haven. Pp. 1-94. \$1.50. 1933.

THE deed of gift of the Dwight Harrington Terry Foundation, in paraphrase, seeks the construction of a broadened and purified religion in the application to human welfare of scientific and philosophical truths as they become available. The criterion by which any endeavor originated on this foundation must be judged therefore is its aptness for integration into the defined pattern. What contribution have biological experience and philosophy, as interpreted by the zoologist, to make in our practical application of the known facts of evolutionary progress to the management of life. Professor Jennings set himself this theme and he treats it as a problem in emergent evolution governed by the principle of trial and error. We should of course expect the author to approach his subject from this angle and we search hopefully

through the pages for evidence of a constructive practical philosophy to crown the author's long and valiant struggle against the mechanistic interpretation of biology. Is modern scientific specialization the most appropriate training for such a purpose? One need not invoke the doctrine of predestination to induce a zest for living, but its substitution by trial and error affords no thrill. The materials for living, thanks to chemistry and physics, are far more familiar to the public than the fabric of life. Hence a biological philosophy requires greater elaboration and illustration to make it fit within the reader's experience. Professor Jennings takes this course, though apparently biology must await the accumulation of much new knowledge before it can construct even a pattern to set before us, let alone a lodestone to keep at our side.

In the plain impressive words of Marcus Aurelius "the universe is either a confusion and a dispersion, or it is unity, order and providence." The reviewer believes that biosocial applications essential to the fulness of modern life may burst the doors of the laboratory from without, insistently thundering for attention.

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## SOCIETIES AND MEETINGS

### THE TWELFTH INTERNATIONAL VETERINARY CONGRESS

COMING to the United States for the first time in the 71 years since its organization, the International Veterinary Congress held its twelfth session from August 13 to 18, 1934, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City. The congress received official government sanction through the opening address of welcome by Hon. M. L. Wilson, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, in addition to the designated patronage of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the vice-patronage of the Secretary of Agriculture, Henry A. Wallace. The object of the conference previously had been sanctioned by the State Department.

Convening for the purpose of reporting scientific progress throughout the world in veterinary science and allied technical fields, the delegates presented and discussed papers in general and sectional meetings throughout the week. The program included the following general topics:

Pathology, bacteriology and contagious diseases.

Medicine, surgery and obstetrics.

Fowl diseases.

Combating enzootic diseases under a state veterinary service.

Relationship of veterinary science to animal breeding and public health. Legal protection of practices of veterinary science.

Veterinary parasitology and parasitic diseases.

Tropical diseases.

Animal breeding and dietetics.

Veterinary control of marketing of milk.

New researches on filterable viruses.

New researches on contagious abortion.

Hygiene of meat and milk.

The foregoing topics were discussed in 81 scientific papers which subsequently will be published in the proceedings of the congress. In view of the international character of the gathering, summaries of the papers had previously been printed in four languages—English, French, German and Spanish—and were distributed to members of the congress as a basis for discussion.

To attempt in this brief account a résumé of the various papers reporting the results of new research and developments in the regulatory field would be so sketchy as to do a scientific injustice to the papers. Suffice it to say that they dealt with new and improved methods for protecting live stock of the world from a wide range of diseases and conditions which tend to reduce the value of such animals to mankind and