

crosses though late, formed pretty roots. The leaves differed in appearance from those of Swedes, and did not, like them, retain the rain water on their surface. In the following spring they were set for seed in two different situations where no extraneous pollen might have access. The flowers of the greater part were of the bright yellow of the two male parents; a smaller portion of each lot produced a straw-color blossom, like that of the Swede; but not one shewed the least disposition to an intermediate tint; and it seemed as if those two colours were incapable of blending, or modifying each other.

William Herbert, a brilliant divine and scholar, carried on his plant researches as a hobby. His monograph on the "Amaryllidaceae" is a landmark on the phylogeny of this group, and his extensive work in plant breeding, mostly with *Amaryllidaceae*, and other ornamentals, has placed him in the same rank as Thomas Andrew Knight, a pioneer plant breeder.

HAMILTON P. TRAUB

"MIRA FLORES"
ORLANDO, FLORIDA

THE GANESH PRASAD PRIZE

THE great interest shown by Hindu scholars during the last few years in the history of mathematics in India is well known. During nearly a century the subject had been so neglected as to give the impression that such early English writers as Colebrooke and

Taylor had exhausted the subject. Among the later Hindu translators of the early works the first of the outstanding Hindu scholars was Rangacarya, whose edition of Mahavir is well known. There have also been a number of later scholars who have published certain expository articles upon the history of the subject and have thus awakened a new interest in various semi-forgotten works of merit. Several of their contributions have appeared in such publications as the *American Mathematical Monthly* and the *Scripta Mathematica*, and others are promised for the new series about to appear under the name of *Osiris*, sponsored by the History of Science Society.

In view of the present activities shown by Hindu scholars it is interesting to know that the Calcutta Mathematical Society has recently announced for the subject of the competition for the "Krishna Kumari-Ganesh Prasad Prize and Medal" the following: "Lives and works of the ten Famous Hindu Mathematicians: Aryabhata, Varamihir, Bhaskara I, Lalla, Brahmagupta, Sridhar, Mahavir, Sripati, Bhaskara II, Narayana." (Spellings of proper names as in the announcement.)

In view of the excellence of various recent articles by Hindu scholars, it may be expected that the winner in the contest will offer to the English-speaking world a work of outstanding importance.

DAVID EUGENE SMITH

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

THE regular spring meeting of the executive committee was held in New York City on April 14, 1935, in the office of The Science Press, Grand Central Terminal, with the following members present: Dr. Cattell, *chairman*, Drs. Caldwell, Compton, Conklin, Curtiss, Livingston, McKinley, Ward, Wilson and Woods. Dr. Hildebrand was excused for absence.

It was reported for record that minutes of the last meeting held in Pittsburgh in December were approved by mail.

The following resolutions, drawn up by the treasurer, laid before the executive committee in December and held over for further study, were brought up for final action and after amendment adopted in the following form as representing the general policy of the council:

No expenditure shall be authorized or made from the permanent funds of the association in the keeping of the treasurer except in pursuance of a previous action by the council or by the executive committee under Article IV, Section 1, of the by-laws.

The council at the annual meeting in each year shall make general appropriations for the current fiscal year; but nothing contained herein shall prevent the council making special appropriations at any meeting.

It shall be the duty of the finance committee to provide for the safe custody of all financial resources of the association and to determine all matters relating to purchase and sale of its securities. It shall consider and recommend to the council from time to time such measures as in its opinion will promote the financial interests of the association.

The need of a change in the present financial arrangement in payment of subsidies to affiliated academies, as previously announced at Atlantic City and Pittsburgh, was studied, and after considerable discussion it was voted that in lieu of allowances sums should be paid to affiliated academies in the form of grants for research. Dr. Livingston, the general secretary and the permanent secretary were appointed a committee to perfect the plan.

The general secretary, Dr. Caldwell, presented a report on the work thus far done in establishing local

branches and on other matters pertaining to his office. On his recommendation it was voted to authorize the acceptance of the following organizations as local branches: Westchester (N. Y.) Institute of Sciences; Phoenix (Arizona) Local Branch; Southern Florida Science Association at Miami; Southern Rhode Island Local Branch at Kingston.

The executive committee looked with favor on the establishment of a branch at Mobile, Ala., subject to approval of the state academy.

The executive committee voted to appropriate \$750, or as much of that amount as may be needed, for clerical and traveling expenses of the general secretary's office until September 30, 1935.

The executive committee approved the following outline, presented by Dr. Compton, as representing general policy of the association.

Exhibits sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science should be limited strictly to the following categories:

- (1) Exhibits which illustrate scientific studies, phenomena or progress.
- (2) Exhibits of apparatus, methods or materials which are useful in scientific instruction or research.
- (3) Exhibits of publications which are of value in the dissemination or advancement of knowledge in science.
- (4) Exhibits of such other types as may be clearly defended for their value as aids in education or research in science.

It shall be the duty of the Director of the Exhibition to see that exhibits are limited to those falling within the above classifications.

The executive committee accepted the resignation of Dr. E. B. McKinley as secretary of the section on medical sciences. On recommendation of the section committee, Dr. Vincent du Vigneaud was elected secretary of the section to succeed Dr. McKinley, his term of office to continue until December, 1936.

Dr. Moses Gomberg was elected a member of the committee on grants to represent chemistry, succeeding Dr. Roger Adams, resigned, his term of office to continue until December, 1938.

Dr. Herbert Osborn was appointed the association's representative on the board of trustees of *Biological Abstracts*, his term of office to continue until April, 1939.

Extended statistical reports on association finances, membership, circularizations inviting new members and special publications, were discussed and approved.

Dr. Compton was authorized to sign the indemnity-bond renewal covering the permanent secretary and the executive assistant.

On recommendation of the special committee on types of membership (Drs. F. V. Coville and A. F.

Woods and the permanent secretary) the following by-law was adopted: Members who have paid annual dues for 50 years may be excused from further payments and still retain all the privileges of active membership.

The permanent secretary presented an outline showing for the endowment funds of the association the exact conditions under which they were received.

The general secretary, Dr. Caldwell, was added to the membership of the committee on adult education.

It was voted to adopt a resolution subsequently worded as follows:

The Executive Committee of the Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science urges all members of the Association to give careful study and consideration to the report of the Commission of Inquiry on Public Service Personnel. (Now available in book form published in full by Whittlesey House.) A non-politically administered Civil Service designed to secure for government work the best qualified workers is essential if government is to function efficiently. The organization at least of the professional and scientific services on a career basis is essential to secure and hold young men and women of capacity and character. They must have opportunity for advancement through service and growth to posts of distinction and honor. There must, of course, be adequate provision for the elimination of the unfit. We recognize that in many branches of the professional and scientific service in the Government and in several of the States great progress has been made along the lines recommended by the commission. In these services the quality of personnel secured and maintained is fully equal to comparable positions outside the Government service, though salaries, especially in the upper brackets, are frequently much lower. The A. A. A. S. will support all sound proposals for the improvement of public scientific and professional service.

Dr. J. B. Macelwane was elected a member of the committee on grants, succeeding Dr. E. W. Berry, resigned. Dr. Macelwane is to represent geology and his term is to continue until December, 1936.

The permanent secretary announced that Professor F. J. E. Woodbridge, of Columbia University, would deliver the Phi Beta Kappa address at the St. Louis meeting.

Dr. Carl Snyder was elected a fellow of the association.

The permanent secretary announced that the Section on Social and Economic Sciences elected Carl Snyder as a member of the section committee, his term of office to continue until December, 1938.

The Society for Research in Child Development, subject to receipt of the formal application, was accepted as an affiliated society with one representative in the council.

The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy was accepted as an associated society.

The Missouri Academy of Science was accepted as an affiliated academy with one representative in the council without any financial arrangement, in accordance with action taken in the recent affiliations of other academies.

The Institute of Aeronautical Science was accepted as an affiliated society with one representative in the council.

The Society for Research on Meteorites was accepted as an associated society.

The American Division of the International Association for Dental Research was accepted as an affiliated society with one representative in the council.

The chairman announced that on request of the special committee on research fellows the report of that committee now pending before the council had been withdrawn.

The permanent secretary announced the appointment by the president of Professor A. P. Wills as the representative of the association on the Sectional Committee on Electric and Magnetic Magnitudes and Units of the American Standards Association.

The permanent secretary presented a printed copy of the address by Dr. Mark H. Liddell on "A New Theory of Sound," read at the Pittsburgh meeting. This is the final report of a research made possible by a grant from the association several years ago.

The permanent secretary announced that railroad rates for the Minneapolis meeting have been limited by the traffic association to bona-fide members (and their families) of the association and its associated societies.

The committee adjourned, to meet in Minneapolis on Monday, June 24, at 9:00 A. M.

HENRY B. WARD,
Permanent Secretary

STATE ACADEMIES

THE PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

THE eleventh annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science was held on April 19 and 20. The academy was the guest of Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Titles of 59 papers and demonstrations were included on the program and, except for the brief business meeting, these filled the session. The annual dinner on Friday evening was followed by the presidential address, "The First Decade of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science," by Professor S. H. Derickson. Dr. William W. Cort, of the Johns Hopkins University, guest speaker of the evening, addressed the society on "Biological Studies on Human Parasites." A total attendance of 103 members and guests registered, besides 41 members of the Junior Academy. A representation of 35 physicists from the state met simultaneously, partly as a sectional group and partly in joint conference with the main body of the academy. The following officers were elected for 1935-1936:

President: Professor Edgar T. Wherry (botany), University of Pennsylvania.

Vice-President: Dr. T. D. Cope (physics), University of Pennsylvania.

Secretary: Dr. T. L. Guyton (entomology), Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Assistant Secretary: Dr. V. Earl Light (biology), Lebanon Valley College.

Treasurer: Professor H. W. Thurston, Jr. (botany), Pennsylvania State College.

Editor: R. W. Stone (geology), Pennsylvania Topographic and Geologic Survey.

Press Editor: Dr. Bradford Willard (geology), Pennsylvania Topographic and Geologic Survey.

The 1935 summer meeting and field trip is to be held in the Poconos in August. The time and place of the 1936 annual meeting are to be announced subsequently.

BRADFORD WILLARD,
Press Secretary

THE ALABAMA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

THE twelfth annual meeting of the Alabama Academy of Science was held at State Teachers College, Florence, Alabama, on Friday and Saturday, April 12 and 13, 1935.

There were ninety-nine members and guests registered, fifty-two papers presented in four sections and three demonstrations given. At the banquet on Friday evening Dr. Russell S. Poor, Birmingham-Southern College, gave the presidential address on "The South's Position in the Mineral Industry." Dr. George M. Hall, president of the Tennessee Academy of Science, was an honored guest.

Following the banquet there was a reception during which a demonstration with ultra-violet light of fluorescent minerals of Alabama was given by Dr. David L. De Jarnette, curator of the Alabama Museum of Natural History, and his assistant, James T. De Jarnette.

On Saturday morning Dr. Walter B. Jones, state geologist, conducted a geological field trip through the Muscle Shoals district. At noon an old-time Southern barbecue was given on the campus of State Teachers College by President H. J. Willingham of the college. In the afternoon an industrial trip under the direction