

verified the author's identification. He suggested that because of its unusual color markings it might be a geographical subspecies. The markings were not typical for any of the three varieties described for the United States by Chamberlain and Ivie,¹ so it was then sent to Professor Chamberlain, who identified it as an extreme variation of *Latrodectus mactans texanus*. Since this spider was collected in a warehouse, it was thought that it might represent an import; but Professor Chamberlain stated that while this is a possibility it need not be true; that while Iowa would

be the northern range for it, the form no doubt occurs here, as it is not uncommon in Kansas.

Field studies will be made next summer in an effort to determine the abundance and varieties of the black widow spider in this locality, and it will be especially interesting to observe whether the extreme variation of this first record will be found again in future investigations.

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SOCIETIES AND MEETINGS

THE PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

THE regular annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science was held at Lancaster, Pa., in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Conference of College Physics Teachers and the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science, on Friday and Saturday, March 26 and 27. The meetings were all conducted on the campus of Franklin and Marshall College, President Thomas D. Cope, of the academy, ably presiding. The college and the Lancaster Branch of the American Association for the Advancement of Science were hosts. A total registration of 355 was recorded, including over 150 for the Junior Academy.

Friday was mainly devoted to the reading of papers before the academy. Thirty-six titles were presented, the distribution by subjects being as follows: Zoology 16, geology 10, botany 3, physics 2, education 2, miscellaneous 3. The Pennsylvania Conference of College Physics Teachers and the Junior Academy held independent sessions during Friday afternoon. At the former, thirteen, and at the latter, twenty-one titles were presented. The reading of the papers was supplemented by a number of exhibits and demonstrations, chiefly biological. There was a joint session of the academy and conference and guests on Saturday morning, at which seven invited papers were read. The sessions ended shortly after noon on Saturday.

Following the annual dinner on Friday evening at the Hotel Brunswick, the several organizations and guests assembled in Hensel Hall at the college to listen to the guest speaker for the annual academy lecture, Dr. F. R. Moulton, recently elected permanent secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Dr. Moulton chose for his subject "Science." He pointed out the present rapid growth of the value of applied science to human affairs and then indicated what a vast potentiality remains in this field for the future.

During the regular business meeting the following officers for 1937-38 were elected:

¹ *Bull. of the University of Utah*, Vol. 25, No. 8, 1935.

President: Dr. Geo. H. Ashley, state geologist of Pennsylvania.

Vice-President: Jaques Cattell, The Science Press.

Secretary: Dr. V. Earl Light, Lebanon Valley College.

Treasurer: Dr. C. W. Thurston, Pennsylvania State College.

Assistant Secretary: Charles E. Mohr, Reading Senior High School.

Editor: Ralph W. Stone, the Pennsylvania Topographic and Geologic Survey.

Press Secretary: Dr. Bradford Willard, the Pennsylvania Topographic and Geologic Survey.

The summer meeting for 1937 will be held at a date to be announced. It is planned to assemble at Wellsboro and visit Harrison State Park and the Coudersport ice mine. The regular annual meeting for 1938 is scheduled to be held at Bucknell College, Lewisburg, the date to be announced later.

The sessions just closed are considered to be among the most successful and best attended in the history of the academy. Much of this success is due to the efforts of the members of the Lancaster Branch of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and Franklin and Marshall College, particularly to Jaques Cattell, chairman of the Lancaster Branch and of the local committee on arrangements, and to Professors R. L. Charles and Howard M. Fry, of Franklin and Marshall College.

BRADFORD WILLARD,
Press Secretary

THE KANSAS ACADEMY OF SCIENCE¹

THE Kansas Academy of Science was organized on September 1, 1868. For three years it was called the "State Natural History Society," but on October 25, 1871, the name was changed to the "Kansas Academy of Science." The society has held 68 annual meetings and has published 39 volumes of *Transactions*. These volumes comprise about 9,000 pages of printed matter, of which about 8,600 pages are devoted to scientific

¹ Report to the Annual Conference of the Academies, December 28, 1936.