

tectural Acoustics and one on Noise Abatement and Vibration.

REGIONAL LABORATORIES OF THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DR. JAMES T. JARDINE, chief of the Office of Experiment Stations, in his annual report to the Secretary of Agriculture states that three laboratories for the investigation of regional problems of agriculture were established last year in the program of scientific research in which the states are cooperating with the United States Department of Agriculture. A laboratory for the study of animal parasites in the Southeast, one for development of swine breeding in the North Central States and a third for sheep improvement in the Range States were approved under provisions of the Bankhead-Jones Act.

These three laboratories supplement three similar developments of the previous year—the vegetable breeding laboratory for the Southeast, the soy-bean laboratory in the Corn Belt and the pasture improvement laboratory for the Northeast—which are now well established.

Regional research has been made possible by appropriations under the Bankhead-Jones Act, which—unlike previous legislation for support of the experiment stations—requires state appropriations to offset the federal contributions. State funds not only met the new offset requirements but amounted to about \$12,000,000, or slightly more than \$2 from state sources for each \$1 from federal grants for support of the experiment stations and approximately six times the federal grant offset requirement. Under the Hatch, Adams and Purnell Acts each state continued to receive equal appropriations. The Bankhead-Jones Act allots funds on the basis of the rural population of each state.

The laboratory for the study of diseases and parasites of domestic animals is being established at the Alabama Polytechnic Institute at Auburn. The experiment stations of thirteen southeastern states are cooperating in the development of the program. These are Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky and Oklahoma.

Headquarters for the laboratory devoted to the improvement of swine through breeding methods is to be at the Iowa Experiment Station at Ames. Representatives of thirteen states in the region outlined the program, and Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and Missouri have agreed to participate actively. It is expected that the other nine states—Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Kansas, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Wisconsin—and possibly other states, will arrange for active cooperation.

For the improvement of sheep on western ranges, twelve range states—Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming—are cooperating in the program which will center at Dubois, Idaho, where the department has a suitable range available from its previous work with sheep improvement. Texas is interested in sheep breeding and for this program is included as one of the range states. Plans and specifications for the laboratory required by the enlarged program of research were approved before the end of the fiscal year and the work is now going forward.

The Office of Experiment Stations continued to represent the department in administering and auditing federal contributions to the experiment stations. The office also supervises the insular stations in Hawaii and Puerto Rico. Territorial and federal work is being merged in Hawaii, and after the current fiscal year the relationships of the territorial station to the department will be virtually on a par with those of the state stations.

THE NEWLY ELECTED DIRECTOR OF THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

IN announcing the appointment of Dr. William J. Robbins as director of the New York Botanical Garden, the *Journal* of the garden prints a leading article which reads:

Dr. William J. Robbins, professor of botany, chairman of the department of botany and dean of the Graduate School of the University of Missouri, has been appointed director of the New York Botanical Garden. In a career which has taken him into many American research and educational institutions and into the laboratories of nearly every country in Europe, Dr. Robbins has won a reputation as a plant physiologist as well as an executive.

Born in North Platte, Nebraska, February 22, 1890, Dr. Robbins grew up in Pennsylvania, graduating from the Bethlehem, Pa., high school and attending Lehigh University in Bethlehem. After receiving an A.B. degree there in 1910, he remained to serve one year as teacher in biology. In 1911 he went to Cornell University for graduate study, beginning work for his doctorate under Dr. B. M. Duggar and completing it under Dr. Lewis Knudson, receiving his doctor of philosophy degree in June, 1915. From 1912 to 1916 he taught plant physiology at Cornell and assisted Dr. Duggar in a course at Woods Hole, Mass., during the summers of 1912 and 1913. He left Cornell in 1916 to become professor of botany in the Alabama Polytechnic Institute and plant physiologist at the Experiment Station there.

In 1918 he served as second lieutenant in the Sanitary Corps of the United States Army, spending three months of the time in the Army Laboratory School at Yale University. Upon leaving the army he accepted a position as soil biochemist in the Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, in the laboratory of Dr. Oswald Schreiner.

He was appointed professor of botany and chairman of the department of botany at Missouri in 1919. In the summer of 1924 he spent three months working with Dr. E. T. Bartholomew on internal decline, or endoxerosis, of lemons, at the Citrus Experiment Station of the University of California.

Beginning in August, 1928, he was associated for two years with the European office of the Rockefeller Foundation, assisting in the fellowship program, a duty which took him into the scientific laboratories of all European countries, including Russia, with the exception of Spain, Portugal, Greece and Turkey.

He was appointed dean of the Graduate School of the University of Missouri in 1930 and served as acting president of the institution from September, 1933, to May, 1934. He has been a member of the staff of the Marine Biological Laboratory for many years and was chairman of the National Research Fellowship Board in the Biological Sciences since 1931.

Dr. Robbins is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, Phi Kappa Phi, Gamma Alpha, and the honorary agricultural fraternity, Gamma Sigma Delta. He is also a Mason and a member of the Presbyterian church. This year the honorary degree of doctor of science was conferred upon him by Lehigh University.

Mrs. Robbins, who was formerly Christine F. Chapman, of Springfield, Mass., is also a botanist and a member of Phi Beta Kappa. At Wellesley, from where she was

graduated in 1912, she majored in botany under Dr. Margaret Ferguson. In 1914 she received an A.M. degree from Cornell in plant physiology and then returned to Wellesley to teach in the botany department. The following year she was married to Dr. Robbins.

They have three sons: Frederick Chapman, who received his A.B. from Missouri last year and is now completing his second year of medicine; William Clinton, who will graduate from the high school at Columbia, Missouri, next spring, and Daniel Harvey, who will enter senior high school in the fall.

The results of Dr. Robbins's more than twenty years of research have been published in some forty articles which have appeared in the *American Journal of Botany*, *Botanical Gazette*, *SCIENCE*, *Soil Science*, and other periodicals. In collaboration with H. W. Rickett he has written "Laboratory Instructions for General Botany" and "Botany, A Text-book for University and College Students," both of which were published by D. Van Nostrand and Company. During the current year nine articles have appeared under his authorship, including: "Effect of 3-indole Acetic Acid on Cell Walls of Stem and Root" with John R. Jackson in the *American Journal of Botany*; "Vitamin B, and the Growth of Excised Tomato Roots" with Mary A. Bartley in *SCIENCE*; "Plant Hormones" in *School Science and Mathematics*, and "The Assimilation by Plants of Various Forms of Nitrogen" in the *American Journal of Botany*.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

A LUNCHEON in honor of the eightieth birthday of Dr. William Hovgaard, professor emeritus of naval design at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and consultant in naval construction, was given on November 27 at the Hotel Astor, New York City, under the sponsorship of the American Society of Danish Engineers, the Danish Officers Club and the Danish Luncheon Club, at which a number of naval officers and Danish engineers were present. Folmer Anderson, president of the American Society of Danish Engineers, presented to Professor Hovgaard a framed picture of *The Vigilant*, a Danish schooner used in fighting privateers off the Virgin Islands.

Nature reports that, after fifty years devoted to teaching and research, Professor Charles Fabry, distinguished for his work in optics, is retiring from the chair he has held in the Sorbonne, Paris. It was planned to celebrate his scientific jubilee by a meeting to be held at the Sorbonne some time between November 23 and December 5. The committee in charge of the arrangements has approved the design of a Fabry Jubilee Medal. It is also hoped to be able to publish in volume form some of Professor Fabry's works, selected from his classical memoirs and from his unprinted researches.

DR. HENRY A. PILSBRY, curator of the department

of mollusks at The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, celebrated, on December 1, his fiftieth anniversary as a member of the staff. During this period he has made twenty-three field trips and expeditions to various parts of the United States, Mexico, Hawaii, Australia, Central America, the Caribbean and the islands of the Southern Pacific in 1929. In addition to his editorship of the *Nautilus* and the "Manual of Conchology," Dr. Pilsbry has written some 800 scientific papers. He is now at work on a manual of the land mollusks of the United States.

A DINNER in honor of Dr. Marie Reimer, professor of chemistry; Dr. Harry L. Hollingworth, professor of psychology, and Dr. Edmund W. Sinnott, professor of botany, of Barnard College, Columbia University, was given recently by the Barnard College Club. Dean Virginia C. Gildersleeve presided, and addresses were made by the guests of honor.

A TESTIMONIAL dinner was tendered on November 21 by the trustees of Brooklyn College of Pharmacy to Dr. Hugo H. Schaefer, the newly elected dean of the college.

GEORGE M. L. SOMMERMAN, formerly an engineering student at the Johns Hopkins University, has been awarded the Alfred Noble prize of \$500 for a paper entitled "Properties of Saturants for Paper-insulated