

the postulate that since all the amino acids which are integral components of living tissue can be justly considered as essential thereto, and hence essential to its production or growth, make it seem advisable to discontinue the practice of attributing general growth dispensability or indispensability to amino acids on the sole basis of weight changes in feeding experiments with rats. Otherwise interpretation is going beyond the limits set by restriction inherent in the method of investigation.

In fact, there is rarely any need to use the word growth in these studies at all. Weight increase or decrease is all that is sufficient and necessary to use in this connection, for this is all that is usually observed. Any other implication is not only inexact—it is unscientific.

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WOLFFIA IN FLOWER

IN SCIENCE for October 1, Henry C. Gilbert remarks, "This is the first report of *Wolffia* in flower in the State of Minnesota, and may be the first report of this matter for the United States."

I quote the following from the Lake Maxinkuckee Report, page 258: "It (*Wolffia columbiana*) was noticed in blossom several times. On October 9, 1900, the plants were in blossom quite freely. We got a tubful in which many were in bloom. They were found in flower also on October 24, of the same year. At Put-in-Bay, Lake Erie, some were noted in blossom about the 19th of July (1908)."

What it would be more desirable to see would be blossoms of the minute duckweed *Wolffiella floridana* (J. D. Thompson), as no flowers nor fruit of the entire genus *Wolffiella* are known. The appropriateness of the name *Wolffiella*, implying a minuteness even greater than that of *Wolffia*, famous as the smallest flowering plant, raises the question of relative size of *Wolffia columbiana* or *punctata* and *Wolffiella floridana*. On account of its shape *Wolffiella floridana* presents more surface, but perhaps less material than *Wolffia*, so that it rivals *Wolffia* in being the most minute phanerogam, not to say "flowering plant."

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MORE FRESH-WATER MEDUSAE

ANOTHER occurrence of the fresh-water medusae, probably *Craspedacusta ryderi*, is in Sandy Lake, at Stoneboro, Pennsylvania. This medusa is of fair size, measuring one and one-half cm in diameter, and was found a year ago in very large numbers in this lake by Mr. John Hines, teacher of biology in Stoneboro High School. On its reappearance a few days ago, it was called to our attention, and is now being studied. It is not in as great abundance as last year, but numerous specimens have been collected.

We hope to add to the knowledge of this form, as we have seen several interesting features apparently not previously described.

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BIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS

THE new acting editor of *Biological Abstracts*, John E. Flynn, and a special Committee on Arrangements, appointed by the Board of Trustees of *Biological Abstracts*, announce the launching of a new plan which insures prompt publication of abstracts and indexes, economy of operation and reorganization of income on a sound basis.

EDITORIAL PLANS

Careful study has been given to methods of speeding up the publication of abstracts, and the following procedures, now to be adopted by the *Abstracts* office, will be of interest to biologists and others:

Abstracting plan. With the aid of biologists and editors of scientific journals, the author-to-editor abstract plan is to be extended. This insures the prompt receipt of abstracts. Payments will be made to col-

laborators handling entire journals, after the plan of *Chemical Abstracts*. This will make possible an understanding between the abstractors and the editorial office as to how much time can be allowed for abstracting and still have the abstracts appear on schedule.

Prompt abstracts. Abstracts from cooperating journals will appear approximately eight weeks after the original articles. Abstracts from non-cooperating journals (prepared by paid collaborators) are scheduled to appear about twelve weeks after the original articles.

Prompt indexes. The acting editor has committed his organization to an April-May appearance of the index for the 1938 and subsequent volumes prepared under his direction.

Journals covered. There will appear from time to time a stated list of journals which are being abstracted so that biologists may know just what is being covered. The names of journals cooperating under

the author-to-editor abstract plan will be so indicated.

Supporting institutions. A list of supporting institutions will appear on alternate months of the inside cover page of *Biological Abstracts*.

FINANCING

Over the past eleven years the Rockefeller Foundation has supplied nearly three quarters of a million dollars for *Biological Abstracts* to develop and work out its future; the experimental period draws to a close. Numerous inquiries are made as to why the foundation does not continue its support; clearly it is not in the publishing business. It has done its part and more too to see *Abstracts* on its way. It now becomes the duty of institutions concerned with biological research and teaching to cooperate with biologists in taking over the responsibility of making new knowledge in this field available to all.

The Committee on Arrangements, working in close touch with the *Abstracts* office, the Periodicals Committee of the American Library Association and the Union of American Biological Societies has formulated a new financing plan.

The essence of this plan is that each institution will become a *master subscriber*. The cost of the *master* subscription to educational institutions in the United States depends upon the number of biologists in any given institution; additional copies in any number desired will be supplied to departmental or other branch libraries at \$7.00 per volume. The method of allocating funds will vary in different institutions, because the new plan must, in the case of the larger institutions, be considered a subsidy.

Individuals associated with an institution which holds a *master* subscription may secure a personal subscription at the new low rate of \$7.00 per year. If the *master* subscription is cancelled at the end of the year for any reason, the individuals in that institution automatically lose their privilege to subscribe.

Many interested inquirers have raised the question: "Why isn't *Biological Abstracts* offered at a flat rate to all subscribers?" Particularly careful study has been given to this question, and until the subscription list is larger, it is neither feasible nor possible. The greater service offered by the new *Biological Abstracts* will greatly increase the subscription list and make possible a low flat rate. At the present time, if there were a flat rate, each subscriber would presumably pay over \$30.00 per volume to provide the minimum funds necessary to continue publication. This would mean that practically all the 700 personal subscriptions would be dropped. The result: 1,250 institutional subscribers would have to pay over \$50.00 per volume. On this basis, probably 300 small institutions would have to discontinue, and where would *Biological Ab-*

stracts be with the flat rate? And to whom would it have been of greater service?

FINANCING AGREEMENT

At a meeting in New York on November 27, in which the American Library Association and the Committee on Arrangements were represented, it was agreed that librarians would arrange a subsidy for *Biological Abstracts* from their institutions (to be contributed to by departments of biology, libraries and administrations where necessary). The amount of this subsidy depends upon the number of biologists in any given institution as described above, and may not continue for more than two years. At the end of this two-year period, *Biological Abstracts* must go to all libraries at a low flat rate.

The chairman of the Periodical Committee of the American Library Association is willing to urge all librarians to do their part in arranging support for *Abstracts*, with *one reservation*—that every biologist agrees to support *Biological Abstracts* in an amount comparable to that given *Chemical Abstracts* by the chemists, to *Science Abstracts* by the physicists (about \$3.50 annually), and to *Psychological Abstracts* by the psychologists (\$5.00 annually). The American Society of Zoologists has been the only group of biologists to provide in the past anything approaching this support for *Biological Abstracts*.

If the members of all biological societies are willing to support *Biological Abstracts*, this committee will continue its work and see that every pledge for the future is carried out. This would mean that approximately \$3.00 annually would be collected by one of the societies of which any given biologist is a member; this single payment of \$3.00 per biologist per year would be transmitted to the Union of American Biological Societies. The Union would thus have a complete catalogue of all the biologists in America, and would assume the definite task of handling the biologists' support for *Abstracts*. Thus, no American biologist could be a member of a biological society without recognizing and meeting his or her responsibility toward indexing and abstracting the biological literature. By payment of an additional \$4.00 annually, any biologist could secure a subscription to *Abstracts* (provided his institution is a subscriber).

The acceptance of this plan will provide a permanent and self-supporting basis for *Biological Abstracts*. Publication of abstracts would thus become recognized as the joint obligation of biologists and their institutions.

Failure on the part of biologists to accept the responsibility outlined above will be understood by the Committee on Arrangements to mean that its efforts should be abandoned. Under such circumstances pub-

lication would cease with the current volume. Officers of the various biological societies will get in touch with their members in the near future, and final action will be taken at the Indianapolis meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science as well as at other centers where biological societies are meeting.

*The Committee on Arrangements for
Biological Abstracts*

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE UNION OF AMERICAN BIOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

THE annual meeting of the council of the Union of American Biological Societies has been scheduled for Wednesday evening, December 29, in the Palm Room of the Claypool Hotel, Indianapolis, Ind., at 8:30 P. M. During the past year the union has been active in lending its support to such projects of broad

interest in the support of *Biological Abstracts*, the Woods Hole Conference on Aging and the teaching of the biological sciences.

The report concerning *Biological Abstracts* by the Committee on Arrangements will be of great importance to those interested in seeing the *Abstracts* become self-supporting beginning with 1938. The importance of working out some permanent and satisfactory financial basis for keeping this valuable aid to research and teaching is recognized by most biologists.

These items, together with a brief report on the American Documentation Institute and other pertinent business, will be considered at the annual meeting. It is hoped there will be a full attendance of those interested, together with the official society representatives to the council.

GEORGE W. HUNTER, III,
Secretary

SOCIETIES AND MEETINGS

THE INDIANA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

THE fifty-third annual meeting of the Indiana Academy of Science was held at Manchester College, North Manchester, on November 4, 5 and 6, under the presidency of Will E. Edington, professor of mathematics, DePauw University. After the usual transaction of business scientific papers were presented on November 5 in sectional programs: *Archeology*, 5 papers, Glenn A. Black, Indianapolis, *chairman*; *Bacteriology*, 3 papers, H. M. Powell, Lilly Research Laboratories; *Botany*, 17 papers, C. L. Porter, Purdue University; *Chemistry*, 9 papers, Paul D. Wilkinson, Indiana State Teachers College; *Geology and Geography*, 12 papers, W. LeRoy Perkins, Indiana State Teachers College; *Mathematics*, an address on "The Foundations of Geometry" by Karl Menger, University of Notre Dame; *Physics*, 15 papers, Leslie I. Steinbach, Central Normal College; *Psychology*, 7 papers, P. L. Hightower, Central Normal College; *Zoology*, 21 papers, W. P. Allyn, Indiana State Teachers College.

On the evening of November 5 Dr. Edington gave his presidential address, entitled "Science and Modern Thought." Other outstanding papers were: "The Homeland of Indian Corn," Paul Weatherwax, Indiana University; "A Tentative Outline of the Prehistory of Indiana," Eli Lilly, Lilly Research Laboratories; "The Goodall Focus of Elemental Hopewellian in Indiana and Michigan," Glenn A. Black, Indiana Historical Society; a series of papers by J. E. Potzger, Butler University, and his collaborators on "The Study of Fossil Pollens" as obtained from various Indiana bogs; "The Mineral Wool Industry of Indiana," William D. Thornbury, Indiana University; "Possibilities for Conservation in an Agricul-

tural State," Kenneth M. Kunkel, director, Division of Fish and Game, Indiana State Conservation Department; "Insects of Indiana for 1937," J. J. Davis, Purdue University; "Staining Methods for Protozoa," W. P. Allyn, Indiana State Teachers College; the papers in zoology for the most part were presented as demonstrations rather than as formal communications.

On November 6 the entomologists had a meeting in charge of H. G. Nester, Butler University, to discuss their special problems. The taxonomists had a meeting, mostly composed of botanists, under the direction of Dr. Theodor Just, University of Notre Dame. The Junior Academy of Science, consisting of science clubs in secondary schools, held its meeting and displayed its exhibits, with George Hoffer, West Lafayette, in charge.

Officers elected for 1938 are: *President*, Eli Lilly, Lilly Research Laboratories; *Vice-president*, T. C. Yunker, DePauw University; *Secretary*, W. P. Allyn, Indiana State Teachers College; *Treasurer*, W. P. Morgan, Indiana Central College; *Editor*, Paul Weatherwax, Indiana University; *Press secretary*, Will E. Edington, DePauw University.

Purdue University was chosen as the place of the next annual meeting. About 350 members and guests were present.

M. W. LYON, JR.,
Press Secretary

THE UTAH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, ARTS AND LETTERS

THE Utah Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters held its autumn meeting at Weber College, Ogden, Utah, on November 5 and 6. The academy banquet