

June of 1938, 373 arrived alive in Puerto Rico. Some of these wasps were released immediately, but others were used for oviposition on mole-crickets collected in Puerto Rico, and these, together with the parasitized changas which had accompanied the wasps, were released in Puerto Rico to the number of 550. Releases were made in a sandy region near Rio Piedras, and in a similar region near Isabela, in both of which places changas were abundant, and also the plants which the wasps frequent to obtain nectar.

At the end of the rainy season in Puerto Rico, in mid-January, 1939, *Larra* wasps were seen in considerable abundance both at Rio Piedras and at Isabela. These wasps could not possibly be any of those originally released, for the life of the insect is measured by weeks; thus they represent descendants of those released in May and June. Their presence indicates that *Larra* has successfully lived through the coldest and wettest as well as the hottest weather normally experienced in Puerto Rico, and may be considered as established at two localities here. How soon *Larra* will begin to spread to other parts of the island, where conditions are possibly somewhat less favorable, and how soon it will result in a marked decrease in changa injury, can not now be predicted, but at least its establishment in two widely separated regions marks one more step in the solution of the problem of control of the changa by natural means.

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OVUM CULTURE

IN certain press reports of a recent paper on meiosis in explanted human ovarian ova the statement has appeared that I plan to carry on this work to the extent of attempting to discover if human offspring can be produced by the methods we employ in ovum culture. This statement is incorrect. My work with human ova ended with these studies of maturation,

and I have no intention whatsoever of continuing them.

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LECTURERS IN GEOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY

At the recent annual meeting of the Division of Geology and Geography of the National Research Council the suggestion was made that university departments in various parts of the country may be interested in knowing when distinguished foreign geologists and geographers are available for special lectures. The division chairman was requested to organize a sort of information bureau for this purpose. Every year some scientists in these fields visit this country. At the present time a number of such scientists are here as refugees from foreign countries.

After some exchange of information on the subject it may be possible to arrange lecture tours, planned cooperatively by neighboring universities and colleges in such a way as to reduce to a minimum the cost involved for each institution. As a first step in organizing the required information, those who know of men suitable and available for such lectures are requested to send to the undersigned the names and addresses of the men, together with pertinent data regarding their careers and publications. When sufficient information has been brought together, a means for its publication will be found.

The ability of each prospective lecturer to speak clear English is of course an important requisite. It is requested that this point be given particular attention in all information that is furnished.

The present college year is near its close. However, information furnished during the summer may make possible the institution of the plan early next fall.

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SOCIETIES AND MEETINGS

SIGMA PI SIGMA CONVENTION

THE fourth national convention of Sigma Pi Sigma, physics honor society, was held from April 6 to 8 at the Ohio State University. One hundred and thirty-two guests and delegates from twenty-eight chapters were registered. The convention program included inspection tours of research activities at the university and the Perkins Astronomical Observatory, scientific addresses and demonstration lectures, business sessions and social events. The presidential address by Dr. R. C. Colwell, of West Virginia University, on "Electromagnetic Waves and Radio Signals" described his own and other researches on ionizing layers in the

atmosphere. Mr. Royal Weller, of the Ohio State University, presented a demonstration lecture of novel experiments in general physics. At the banquet the speakers were Dr. Alpheus W. Smith, head of the physics department at Ohio State, Dr. W. H. Bennett, director of research at the Electronic Research Corporation, Newark, Ohio, and Dr. H. W. Russell, director of the Battelle Memorial Institute, Columbus, Ohio. The main convention open meeting was addressed by Dr. Paul E. Klopsteg, president of the Central Scientific Company, following his reception into the society as an honorary member. His address on "Archery: A Physicists' Hobby" was illustrated by lantern slides

and an extensive exhibit of bows and arrows of both modern and ancient design. Dr. Klopsteg described the researches which he and others have made upon the scientific investigation of the physics of archery, which led to an explanation of the "paradox of archery" and the design of bows of incomparably better performance than those formerly used.

A panel discussion on the topic "How Shall the Physicist Get a Job?" was conducted by Dr. M. N. States, with Dr. W. P. Davey, of the Pennsylvania State College, and Dr. William E. Forsythe, of the Nela Park Research Laboratories, as principal speakers. At the Perkins Observatory of the Ohio State and Ohio Wesleyan Universities, the director, Dr. N. T. Bobrovnikoff, gave an illustrated address on "Astrophysics, a Borderland Science."

The convention authorized the expansion of the services of the placement board of the society and its establishment upon a permanent basis. This board will serve as an agency to bring to the attention of prospective employers of physicists the availability of certain members of the society and will function as a general clearing house for information regarding the placement of graduates in physics.

The report of the executive secretary to the convention indicated that the society has a total membership of 2,435 and an active chapter membership of 650. There are thirty-two active chapters. The convention authorized the establishment of a classification of "sustaining membership" among the alumni members of the society. The contributions of these members are to be kept in a separate fund and administered by a fellowship board to assist graduate-student members of the society to pursue further graduate work and research.

The executive secretary also reported that the society had just installed its thirty-second active chapter on April 4 at the Fort Hays Kansas State College, Hays, Kansas. The installing officers were Dr. Malcolm C. Hylan, of the University of Colorado, and Dr. R. A. Rogers, of Park College. At a general college assembly preceding the installation, Dr. Hylan gave an illustrated address on "A Dream Come True," in which he discussed some of the contemporary developments in the field of induced radioactivity. The charter group included thirty-one students and alumni. Dr. Harvey A. Zinszer is the head of the department of physics at Hays.

Officers elected at the close of the convention were: *President*, Dr. F. C. Blake, Ohio State University; *Vice-president*, Dr. Joyce C. Stearns, University of Denver; *Executive Secretary*, Dr. Marsh W. White, the Pennsylvania State College. Members of the Executive Council elected were: Dr. R. C. Colwell, West Virginia University; Dr. D. W. Cornelius, University of Chattanooga; Dr. W. P. Davey, Pennsylvania State

College, and Dr. R. I. Allen, John B. Stetson University.

MARSH W. WHITE,
Executive Secretary

THE KANSAS ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

THE seventy-first annual meeting of the Kansas Academy of Science was held at the University of Kansas, on March 30, 31 and April 1, 1939, under the leadership of Dr. Walter H. Schoewe as president. The opening lecture was given by Dr. Charles A. Shull, of the University of Chicago, who spoke on Thursday evening on the subject, "The Plant in Relationship to the Water System of Its Environment." This lecture was sponsored by the Kansas chapters of Phi Sigma, Sigma Xi and the Kansas Academy of Science.

Sectional programs opened on Friday morning and continued until 11 o'clock, when the first general business session was held. An interesting innovation in the program of the first business session was one-minute reports of the recipients of the 1938 research awards. These were followed by reports of officers, delegates to meetings and a lantern slide demonstration lecture on color photography by Oren Bingham. The slides were truly remarkable in their beauty, range of subjects and color values.

The second business and general session was held on Saturday at 8 A.M. President Schoewe gave the annual presidential address on the subject, "The Conservation of our Natural Areas." This is a subject in which Dr. Schoewe is greatly interested and is unusually well fitted to discuss. He stressed the difficulties which have arisen to making areas into national parks or national monuments and maintaining them as such.

Mrs. Otilla Reagan, who so graciously established the Albert B. Reagan Endowment in the Academy in memory of her distinguished husband, attended the academy sessions and spoke following the business meeting on "Reminiscences of our Indian Service." She recounted many interesting experiences and observations during their long period of work on Indian Reservations.

The Committee on Research Awards made the following grants for 1939-1940: To F. L. Carter, of Wilson, Kansas, award no. 3 of \$32.50 from the Albert B. Reagan Memorial, for "A Study of the History of the Changes in the Mammal Population in Western Kansas"; to Claude W. Hibbard, of the University of Kansas, \$25.00 for "Completion of a Study of the Upper Pliocene Fauna of Kansas, and Relation to the Blanco Fauna of Texas"; to Andrew Riegel, graduate student of Fort Hays Kansas State College, \$25.00 for "A Study of the Variations in Growth of Blue Grama Grass"; to Charles Wolfson, graduate