

interested and in many cases excited by the newspaper accounts. This is hopeful, because it suggests that even the truth might have interested them had the press seen fit to make it available.

Out of nearly one hundred papers whose stories finally came back to me, about one tenth had reports that were neither seriously wrong scientifically nor obnoxious to me personally. In view of the great need

for popular presentation of the results of research, and in view of the mechanisms set up for this purpose and used in this case, this is a serious matter despite its humorous side. It is fairly typical of what still happens to scientific news, and it has a moral, in fact several of them, that will be obvious to the reader.

G. G. SIMPSON

THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

SOCIETIES AND MEETINGS

THE EASTERN SECTION OF THE SEISMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

THE Eastern Section of the Seismological Society of America held its fifteenth annual meeting on May 31 and June 1, 1940, at Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio. The sessions were well attended, and all the prominent seismological observatories of the United States westward to the Mississippi Valley were represented; on account of the international situation, the Canadian seismologists did not attend. The members and guests of the section were welcomed by the Reverend Dennis Burns, S.J., president of Xavier University, and by the Reverend V. C. Stechschulte, S.J., director of the Xavier seismic station.

Professor Arthur C. Ruge, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, chairman of the section, presided at the four sessions during which the business of the section was transacted and the scientific papers were presented. Detailed reports were given on "Amateur Seismology" by J. J. Lynch, S.J., of Fordham University, and on "Methods and Operations" by E. L. Perry, of Williams College; these reports aroused much interest and discussion; it is hoped that they may be made available in printed form for distribution. The report of E. A. Hodgson, of the Dominion Observatory at Ottawa, on "Vault Construction" was read by title because of his enforced absence; however, the detailed report has since been mailed by the observatory to all seismic stations; it constitutes the most authoritative and up-to-date source of information that we have on the subject.

Twenty-two papers were presented on a variety of topics in theoretical and instrumental seismology. Captain N. H. Heck, of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, discussed recent developments in strong motion recording and showed excellent records of the Imperial Valley earthquake which had occurred a few days before the meeting; he gave interesting details of the effect of the European war on international scientific societies. Other papers of particular interest were: "Observations of Microseisms at Spring Hill College, Alabama," by A. J. Westland, S.J., and C. J. Elliot, S.J., of Spring Hill College; "The Earthquake Analyzer," by Arthur C. Ruge, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and "A 'Synchronous Direct Cur-

rent Motor' for Seismograph Recorders," by J. H. Nelson, of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. Two topics were discussed at length by the entire section; H. E. McComb, of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, led the discussion on "Instruments," and J. B. Macelwane, S.J., led that on "Seismic Prospecting." The leaders had prepared carefully questions and arguments on theoretical and practical aspects of seismology that provoked extended and at times heated debate.

The following officers were elected unanimously for next year: *Chairman*, A. J. Westland, S.J., Spring Hill College; *Vice-Chairman*, R. R. Bodle, U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey; *Secretary*, W. A. Lynch, Fordham University; *Treasurer*, H. Landsberg, Pennsylvania State College; *Fifth Member of the Executive Committee*, A. C. Ruge, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. An important resolution was adopted requesting the Electric Utilities of the United States to aim at closer frequency control to assist observatories and other scientific bodies in making time measurements.

An excellent luncheon served on Saturday by Xavier University provided a fitting close to a thoroughly enjoyable and instructive meeting.

WILLIAM A. LYNCH,
Secretary

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

THE BOTANICAL CONFERENCE AND FORAY AT THE ALLEGANY SCHOOL OF NATURAL HISTORY

A TOTAL of eighty naturalists participated in the botanical forays held at the Allegany School of Natural History over the week-end of June 21-23. The following societies were represented: Botanical Society of America, American Society of Plant Taxonomists, Torrey Botanical Club, Burroughs-Audubon Club of Rochester, Nature Sanctuary Society of Western New York, Western Pennsylvania Botanical Club and Sullivant Moss Society. The conference attracted botanists from a widely scattered area, including South Dakota, Wisconsin, Ohio, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts.

The program started with a dinner at the school on Friday evening, followed by two illustrated lectures in the Assembly Hall. Dr. William N. Fenton, associate anthropologist of the Bureau of American Ethnology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., spoke on the subject, "Ethnobotanical Remains among the Senecas." He discussed the use of native plants in primitive medicine, religious ceremonies and aboriginal industries. A. F. Hough, assistant silviculturist of the Allegheny Forest Experiment Station, Philadelphia, Pa., delivered the second lecture, "Research Projects in the Allegheny National Forests." Both talks were based on prolonged technical studies and were greatly appreciated by the audience of about fifty persons.

Saturday morning was devoted to a foray on Jones Hill, south of Steamburg, N. Y., about fifteen miles from the school. Steamburg lies in the terminal moraine of the last glaciation, and the upper slopes of Jones Hill were unglaciated. An unusual variety of vascular plants were found in this one locality. Splendid views of the surrounding country rewarded those who reached the top.

At noon the caravan followed New York State Route 17 along the picturesque Allegheny River Valley for nearly twenty-five miles to St. Bonaventure. Arrangements for luncheon had been made through the kind offices of Professor Hubert Vecchierello, head of the biology department at the college. The medieval atmosphere of the huge refectory and the tour of the splendid romanesque library will not soon be forgotten.

Later the party returned to Steamburg to visit a bog in the terminal moraine area. All five of the native coniferous trees, tamarack, black spruce, balsam fir, white pine and hemlock, were found. Of special interest was the discovery of *Arisaema stewardsoni* at Chamberlain's Bog by Dr. Norman C. Fassett.

After dinner at the Allegany School the evening of Saturday was spent informally with the library and laboratories of the school open to the guests so that finds of the day could be examined and discussed. Some enthusiasts worked until after midnight arranging their collections.

Short forays designed to accommodate special interest groups were held on Sunday morning. W. Burdett Moose, high-school principal of Coudersport, Pa., led the Fern Foray to South Mountain and Sheffield Hill. Dr. Robert B. Gordon, of the State Teachers College at West Chester, Pa., and L. K. Henry, of the Carnegie Museum at Pittsburgh, led another foray through the mature forest area known as Big Basin for the benefit of forest ecologists and mycologists. A general botanical foray to Bear Bog was led by Homer A. Jack, of Cornell University. Dr. R. H. Goodwin, of the University of Rochester, Dr. Norman C. Fassett, of the University of Wisconsin, and Dr. Earl E. Sherff, of the Chicago Teachers College and Field Museum, were among the able participants who assisted. A fourth foray was planned for the bryologists and lichenologists, with Olean Rock City as their destination. Dr. Margaret Fulford, of the University of Cincinnati, Dr. P. Boehner, of St. Bonaventure College, and Mr. and Mrs. Warren Bleekman, of Buffalo, N. Y., furnished leadership.

The conference closed on Sunday with a dinner at the Allegany School. Chauncey J. Hamlin, president of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, made a presentation speech awarding the Pugsley Bronze Medal to William P. Alexander, curator of adult education at the Buffalo Museum, for his pioneer work in establishing the first nature trail in the Allegany State Park in the summer of 1921.

ROBERT B. GORDON,
Director

ALLEGANY SCHOOL OF NATURAL HISTORY

REPORTS

THE WILLIAM JOHN GIES AWARD, RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS-IN-AID OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF DENTISTS

THE Committee on Dental Research take pleasure in reporting that the accomplishment of two primary objectives, the initial bestowal of the William John Gies Award and the assignment of the first research fellowships and grants-in-aid, has coincided appropriately with the centennial of organized dentistry.

In undertaking the necessary survey of the need and opportunity for promoting dental research, our greatest encouragement and reassurance lay in the fact that

we could look to the International Association for Dental Research for guidance and support, relying upon the valuable experience gained by them in their continuous efforts towards the scientific solution of dental problems and the standards of quality and intelligence which have been set by their distinguished *Journal of Dental Research*. The association listened cordially to a preliminary outline of our plans and projects and lent to our deliberations the services of a cooperative committee, whose information, advice and support have been available at all points, and, needless to say, of inestimable service in the attainment of our objectives. We are indeed most grateful to