

Pasteurella pestis (Leh. and Neu.), and could therefore act as a potential menace for the spread of the disease to the common rat. Campaigns against rats in Kansas and other states in which *X. cheopis* is known to occur would thus serve interests of public health as well as economy.

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JOURNALS FOR LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES: A CHALLENGE TO SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES¹

THE suggestion is frequently made that we in the United States might help in building hemisphere solidarity through the international language of science, and a good suggestion it is. Our scientific societies publish hundreds of journals, and why shouldn't they help in one way or another to further our widely proclaimed policy of being the "good neighbor"?

The "*Handbook of Scientific and Technical Societies and Institutions of the United States and Canada*"² lists over 900 such groups for the United States and its dependencies, and nearly 150 for Canada. Of this number well over 100 are sufficiently national in scope to "go Pan American" quite readily. In the latter group there are approximately 60 societies in the field of medicine, 40 in animal and plant science, and smaller numbers (groups with large memberships, publishing splendid journals) in chemistry, physics, geography, geology, etc. So, here we are with at least 100 to 150 scientific organizations potentially ready to send their journals and their scientific good-will to Latin American countries.

The result of a survey of the present circulation of 21 of our biological and chemical journals (late 1940) appears in the accompanying table. It will be seen that the chemical journals go south in larger numbers than the others. In general, the countries not mentioned are receiving about as many journals as the countries listed. Biological societies publishing the journals indicated have memberships of about 500 to 1,500, and the American Chemical Society approximately 25,000: thus, as far as scientific societies are concerned, the present circulation of their journals is not greatly different for the different groups, on a per member basis. The surprising thing is the small number of journals going to the 16 countries indicated. Even *Biological Abstracts*, the only comprehensive biological abstracting journal of its kind, has but 34 subscriptions going to the countries mentioned. It is

¹ The data on journal circulation are presented with the permission of those concerned; their cooperation is gratefully acknowledged.

² Bulletin No. 101, National Research Council, Washington, D. C. 283p. 1937.

JOURNAL		Argentina	Bolivia	Brazil	Chile	Colombia	Costa Rica	Ecuador	Guatemala	Honduras	Mexico	Panama	Paraguay	Peru	Surinam	Uruguay	Venezuela
American Journal of Botany	P	2		1													
	I	4		7													
Botanical Gazette	P			1													1
	I			7													
Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club	P	4		1	1	1											2
	I	3		1													
Journal of Bacteriology	P	3		2		3					3	2					2
	I	3		8	3	3	1		1		3			2			
Phytopathology	P	12		9		1		1							1	1	1
	I	16		8	1	2			1					1	1	2	2
Plant Physiology	P			1							1						
	I	3		5													2
Ecology	P	4		2													
	I	3		9													
Endocrinology	P	22		11	5	7			1		2						2
	I	7		11	6		1			5				1			
Genetics	P	4		2											1	1	
	I	1		10											1		1
American Journal of Anatomy	P																
	I	1		3	2	1											
American Journal of Physiology	P	4		0	3			1									1
	I	2		4	3	1								1			
American Journal of Physical Anthropology	P	2		2										2			
	I	1		2	1					2				1			
Anatomical Record	P	1		1	2												1
	I	1		2	2												
Journal of Comparative Neurology	P	2		2				1									
	I	2		2													
Journal of Nutrition	P	5		2	1									1			
	I	5		4	3	1					1	1					2
Physiological Reviews	P	8		2	4									1		3	2
	I	3		3	2	1											1
Chemical Abstracts	P	38		17	6	4	2	1	2		31		1	6			16
	I	40		29	2	2					11		3				5
Ind. & Eng. Chemistry (Science Edition)	P	60		23	15	6	2	2	4	1	55		13	1	3	15	
	I	51		32	14	5		1	1	23			5	1	8	8	
Ind. & Eng. Chemistry (News Edition)	P	49		128	15	9	2	2	4	1	49		10		2	15	
	I	45		20	10	4		1	1	18			3		6	8	
Journal of the American Chemical Society	P	20		116	8	2	2	1	1	1	27			7		1	7
	I	17		11	4	1				1	11			2		3	5
Proceedings of the National Academy of Science	P																
	I	3		3		1											

P = PERSONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

I = INSTITUTIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

FIG. 1

reasonable to assume that there are either relatively few workers in the biological field in Latin America, or that they are not sufficiently well acquainted with our societies or journals to find them useful. A further possibility is that many of those who might be interested, can not afford to take our journals because of the relatively high subscription rates (exchange).

Here are a few suggestions, some of which might

be carried out to strengthen the cultural ties between the peoples of this hemisphere:

1. Societies in a position to do so might well follow the example of others which in the last few months have invited Latin American colleagues to become members.

2. In order to partly compensate for certain wide differences in exchange, societies in a strong position might establish membership or subscription rates in the various currencies of Latin American republics.

3. Societies might arrange with similar organizations in Latin America for a certain number of exchange memberships. In such memberships international remittances would be unnecessary; exchange-society members would pay larger dues and be allotted a second copy of a journal to be mailed to an exchange member in Latin America (who would be doing similarly). The main point in this suggestion is that no money would change hands, *i.e.*, differences in exchange would not be a problem.

4. Societies might well turn their attention toward the election of corresponding members from Latin America; wherever possible, at least one from each country.

5. Wherever the number of subscriptions for particular journals warrants, (certainly none at present) Spanish or Portuguese abstracts might appear at the ends of all articles. This would be costly, however, unless translations could be arranged on a volunteer basis. It would be equally desirable to a great many United States scientists to have abstracts in English for articles in journals published in Spanish or Portuguese.

The foregoing and other ideas can be successful only if worked out on a *reciprocal* basis. A "big brother" movement is unlikely to be greeted kindly, however cordially it is intended. During the previous World War, one of our generous-minded scientific institutions sent a large number of subscriptions to Latin America, and continued them without charge for a period of years. Less than 10 now remain on their paid circulation list. Possibly this represents the number of scientists who find the journals useful. In any case, it is clear that whatever is done along the line of scientific cooperation, must be done on a basis of equality: no handouts given, and none asked, but always a willingness and a desire for full cooperation.

Our aim ought to be to place our journals in the hands of all our Latin American colleagues who want them and who might profit by them; it is equally important that we have access to such of their journals as in turn would be of value to us. Working out the means for such collaboration is necessarily up to scientific societies and others interested. Such groups can, if they wish, lead the way in strengthening cultural ties between countries of the Western Hemisphere.

And to what organizations shall we turn for leadership?

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THE DISTRIBUTION OF AMERICAN ASTRONOMICAL LITERATURE ABROAD

THE Committee for the Distribution of American Astronomical Literature Abroad was formed in September, 1940, by action of the council of the American Astronomical Society. Because of the risk of loss in passage most ordinary mailings of printed matter from the United States to Europe have ceased. Our committee is therefore sending to European countries one or two copies of each current American publication by whatever seems the safest method and the most promising route.

We have established contacts with a number of European astronomers, who have offered to act as circulation managers for their countries. Dr. Oort in Leiden is circulation manager for Holland, Dr. Delporte for Belgium, Dr. Abetti for Italy, Dr. Kopff and Dr. ten Bruggencate for Germany, Austria, Poland and Czecho-Slovakia, and Dr. Lindblad for Scandinavia. We are not yet mailing regularly to Dr. Lindblad, since the Scandinavian astronomers are apparently still receiving American publications. We have so far been unable to establish contacts with France. An attempt to work through Dr. Mineur failed, and we are now trying to get in touch with the director of the Paris Observatory. The astronomers in Holland and Germany are helping us establish contacts with France and we are certain that before long we shall be able to include France in our scheme. All items are now being sent by second-class registered mail. The losses in transit have so far been small.

In return Dr. Oort, Dr. Abetti and Dr. ten Bruggencate have promised to send by airmail abstracts of all astronomical articles that can not be sent directly to the United States. The committee proposes to mimeograph these abstracts for distribution among American astronomers. The first bulletin with a series of abstracts sent by Dr. Abetti is now being issued. If it should become impossible to send any printed matter to Europe, the committee proposes to prepare similar abstracts of American papers for distribution to Europe.

Most astronomical publications are still being mailed to the British Isles. The committee has, however, begun to send to the secretary of the Royal Astronomical Society one or more copies of those papers that are not being mailed generally to Great Britain. The secretary of the Royal Astronomical Society will also receive at least one copy of every publication from continental Europe that can be spared in the United

³ Formerly secretary of the Botanical Society of America.