

this book as a valuable time-saver, and agronomic workers will find it interesting and useful. Those who do not have ready access to all foreign soil science periodicals will appreciate the summaries of the important work of Russian, German and French soil

physicists. The book is particularly timely and its acceptance is assured.

L. B. OLMSTEAD

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY,  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## SOCIETIES AND MEETINGS

### THE VIRGINIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

THE nineteenth annual meeting of the Virginia Academy of Science was held at the Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, from May 1 to 3, with 520 in attendance; 197 papers were presented in the 11 sections, a new one in forestry having been formed this year. Dr. John H. Yoe and Dr. Lyle G. Overholzer were awarded the Interacademy Award of \$100 for their paper, "Application of a New Class of Organic Reagents to the Detection and Determination of Palladium." Dr. Allen T. Gwathmey won the Jefferson Award of \$50 with his paper, "The Action of Some Gases on the Surface of a Single Crystal of Copper." The Academy Award of \$50 was won by Mr. Charles Ray, Jr. His paper was entitled "Cytological and Genetic Studies on the Flax Genus, *Linum*." All recipients of awards are on the staff of the University of Virginia.

Austin H. Clark, curator, Division of Echinoderms, U. S. National Museum, and president of the Washington Academy of Sciences, was the principal speaker at the banquet and at the organization meeting of the Junior Academy of Science.

The first report of the newly formed Long Range Planning Committee of the Academy recommended that two projects receive special attention during the coming year—the Junior Academy and science clubs and the James River monograph.

Officers elected were Dr. George W. Jeffers, Farmville State Teachers College, *President*; Dr. E. C. L. Miller, Medical College of Virginia, *Secretary-Treasurer*; Dr. Sidney S. Negus, Medical College of Virginia, *Assistant Secretary*; Dr. Marcellus H. Stow, Washington and Lee University, *President-elect*, and Dr. Harvey B. Haag, Medical College of Virginia, *new member of the Council*.

After the academy meeting closed, 135 of those in attendance took a trip into Dismal Swamp, while others visited the bogs at Petersburg and Seward Forest.

There were 203 science club members from over the state present at the first formal meeting of the Junior Academy of Science. Honorary junior memberships in the American Association for the Advancement of Science were awarded to Gordon Jones and John Tompkins jointly, of Mt. Vernon High School, Arlington, in recognition of their exhibit of plants displayed

at the meeting and to Forrest Pitts, of Thomas Jefferson High School, Richmond, for his excellent showing in the radio quiz held in connection with the meeting. Miss Lena Artz and Miss Martha H. Lipsecomb are respective sponsors of the science clubs in these two high schools. Honorary junior memberships in the Virginia Academy of Science were awarded to Martin Milroy, Randolph Henry High School, Charlotte Court House, Miss Lyndele A. Pitt, sponsor; Walter Brown, Lane High School, Charlottesville, Mr. W. I. Nickels, Jr., sponsor; and Miss Patsy Whitaker, Pulaski High School, Pulaski, Miss J. Frances Allen, sponsor. These three young people were selected because of their outstanding work during the year in science club work.

Besides Mr. Clark, Miss Margaret E. Patterson, of the American Institute of the City of New York, spoke to the Junior Academy group. Hubert J. Davis, of the Matthew Whaley High School, Williamsburg, acted as chairman of the meeting.

A. J. Davis, of the Test Tube Tinkerers Science Club of George Washington High School, Danville, was elected president of the Junior Academy for the ensuing year. Miss Patsy Whitaker, of the Roy Chapman Andrews Museum Club, Pulaski High School, was elected vice-president, and Miss Catherine Christian, of the Einstein Club, Appomattox High School, was chosen secretary.

E. C. L. MILLER,  
*Secretary*

### THE PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

THE seventeenth annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science was held on April 11 and 12 at Coatesville. During the sessions 175 persons registered as senior academy members and 161 registered in the Junior Academy. General meetings for the presentation of papers were held on Friday and Saturday mornings. On Friday afternoon the program was split into three section meetings, one on meteorology that had been arranged by the Central Pennsylvania Seminar of American Meteorological Society, one on geology and one devoted to the teaching of science and general papers. The Junior Academy met simultaneously under the direction of Professor Karl F. Oerlein. The annual dinner was held on Friday eve-

ning and was followed by an address by W. G. Theisinger, director of welding research, Lukens Steel Company, on "The Science of Making Steel and Steel Defense Products." This lecture was illustrated by colored moving pictures taken in the mills of the Lukens Steel Company.

At the business meeting on Saturday the following officers were elected: *President*, E. A. Vuilleumier, Dickinson College, Carlisle; *President-elect*, Charles E. Mohr, the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia; *Vice-presidents*, Marcus H. Green, Albright College, Reading, and Thomas H. Knepp, Everett High School; *Secretary-Treasurer*, V. Earl Light, Lebanon Valley College, Annville; *Editor*, Robert T. Hance, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh; *Press Secretary*, Lawrence Whitcomb, Lehigh University, Bethlehem; *Junior Academy Adviser*, Karl F. Oerlein, State Teachers College, California.

It was decided that the summer meeting in 1941 would be held at Bedford, Pa., on August 8 and 9, the 1942 spring meeting at State Teachers College, Edinboro, Pa., on April 3 and 4, and the 1943 spring meeting at Beaver College, Jenkintown.

LAWRENCE WHITCOMB,  
*Press Secretary*

### THE IOWA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

THE fifty-fifth annual meeting of the Iowa Academy of Science was held at Simpson College, Indianola, Iowa, on April 25 and 26, with 260 registered members and visitors attending.

A symposium, "Recent Advances in Genetics," with President Charles Carter, of Parsons College, presiding, took the place of the customary Friday morning presidential address. The three topics discussed and the leaders were as follows: "Theoretical Genetics," E. W. Timm, Iowa State College; "Applied Plant Genetics," I. J. Johnson, Iowa State College; "Applied Animal Genetics," J. L. Lush, Iowa State College; "Human Genetics," K. A. Stiles, Coe College. A joint symposium with the Iowa Medical Society, "Virus

Diseases," was held on Friday afternoon, with J. W. Gowen, of Iowa State College, in the chair. The topics and leaders were as follows: "The Chemistry of Plant Viruses," C. G. Vinson, University of Missouri; "Experimental Leukosis," C. D. Lee, Iowa State College; "Viruses Affecting the Respiratory Tract of Man," W. M. Hale, Iowa City. The Friday evening dinner address, "Simultaneity and Originality in Human Thought," by Professor George Glockler, of the State University of Iowa, presented a thought-provoking viewpoint to about 180 diners. The annual academy address on Friday night was delivered by C. R. Keyes, of Cornell College. The Iowa audience was quite surprised to learn of the archeological possibilities in the state.

The academy likewise met in 9 sections for the presentation of 141 papers of special interest. The science teaching section held a symposium, "Tests and Measurements in Science." The leaders were D. B. Stuit, State University of Iowa; S. M. Dietz, Iowa State College; and P. E. Kambly, University High School, Iowa City.

Iowa Wesleyan College, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, will be the host of the academy in 1942. The officers and section chairmen for the new year are as follows: *President*, Roy A. Nelson, Cornell College; *Vice-president*, C. W. Lantz, Iowa State Teachers College; *Secretary-Treasurer*, E. R. Becker, Ames, Iowa; *Editor*, L. R. Wilson, Coe College; botany and bacteriology, M. L. Grant, Iowa State Teachers College; chemistry, general and physical, H. H. Rowley, State University of Iowa; chemistry, organic and biological, Henry Gilman, Iowa State College; geology, L. W. Wood, Iowa State Highway Commission; mathematics, Orlando Kreider, Iowa Falls Junior College; physics, C. O. Gale, Grinnell College; psychology, M. T. Henderson, Grinnell College; science teaching, S. M. Dietz, Iowa State College; zoology, J. A. Adams, Grinnell College.

E. R. BECKER

AMES, IOWA

## REPORTS

### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CLASSIFICATION OF MILITARY PERSONNEL ADVISORY TO THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE<sup>1</sup>

THE Committee on Classification of Military Personnel held its first meeting at the National Research Council on May 24, 1940. Subsequent meetings were held on August 9, December 9 and February 23 and 24, 1941. In addition, there has been much individual

conference and correspondence with officials in the War Department.

The problems with which the committee has dealt have arisen mainly out of the work of the Personnel Research Section in the Personnel Bureau of the Adjutant General's Office. This section is responsible for developing aids to correct classification of officers and men with respect to their abilities and skills, educational background, civilian and military experience, intellectual capacity, personal qualifications, special aptitudes and indicated best Army usefulness.

<sup>1</sup> Submitted to the Division of Anthropology and Psychology of the National Research Council, April 26, 1941.