

inch permanent-magnet speakers, but two of which were required for our building of five floors. The cost of equipment was approximately \$25.00.

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### ENTOMOLOGY AND WARFARE

A YOUNG friend of mine, a keen student of insects, has recently been taken over by the military authorities as an entomologist. He does not know where he will be sent or did not when I talked with him, but he has a keen sense of the possibilities of such a position, and is very enthusiastic about it. Years ago, I met Sir

David Bruce in Madeira, and he commented on the great opportunities for work connected with the transmission of disease in the tropics and the unwillingness or inability of most resident medical officers to take up this work, in addition to their regular duties. If our military authorities are now establishing entomological units, with trained workers, in all the places where our troops are stationed in the tropics, the results will certainly be of great importance. Sickness and death will be prevented, and information will be obtained which will be of value in times of peace.

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## QUOTATIONS

### IMPACTS OF THE WAR ON AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE AS INDICATED BY THE DECEMBER SOCIETY MEETINGS

So many of the scientific societies of agricultural interest hold their annual meetings in late December that this period normally assembles more research workers in agriculture than any other of the year. For this reason these gatherings furnish an unusual opportunity to obtain a cross section of current thought and trends in some of the most important fields. In this respect, the 1941 meetings were no exception. Although formulation of their programs was well advanced before Pearl Harbor, the war and its impacts inevitably permeated whatever was said and done.

Three main groups of these meetings were attended by representatives of the Office of Experiment Stations. The largest in point of numbers and constituent bodies was that at Dallas, Texas, centering around the American Association for the Advancement of Science and including among others the American Phytopathological Society, the Society for Horticultural Science, the Society of Plant Physiologists and the Mycological Society, the Genetics Society and the Potato Association of America. A second group was that of nation-wide social science societies, held in New York City and including among others the American Farm Management Association and the Rural Sociological Society of America. The third was held in San Francisco and included the American Association of Economic Entomologists and the Entomological Society of America. All these groups were largely attended, and there was the customary substantial representation from the Federal Department of Agriculture and the land-grant colleges and experiment stations.

One of the organizations giving special attention to the war situation was the American Phytopatho-

logical Society. This society scheduled a panel discussion, sponsored by its extension work and relations committee and having as its topic for discussion Plant Pathology in Relation to National Defense and Post-War Readjustments. The meeting was opened by Director C. R. Orton, of West Virginia, who took up the national emergency programs as to crop production and garden goals and set forth the plant disease program involved. Other speakers drew attention to the opportunity for increased service to Latin America, the fungicide and spray machinery situation and the need of better transmission of research findings to the farm. On this last point, it was stated that less than half the states now have extension plant pathologists. In an attempt to remedy some of the difficulties in this direction, a group of southern plant pathologists set aside their original program for a special conference to consider what they might do of a war-time value and formulated simple, specific directions for the control of tomato wilt, sweet-potato wilt and other *Fusarium* wilts of southern crops.

The society as a whole voted to affiliate with the American Society of Agricultural Sciences. Thereby it became the first society in this country to effect association with this good-neighbor group established to promote helpful relationships among the agricultural scientists of the American Republics.

Probably the most significant action of the phytopathologists was their formation of a war emergency committee, consisting of their retiring president, Dr. J. G. Leach, of West Virginia; Dr. E. C. Stakman, of Minnesota; Dr. R. P. White, formerly of the New Jersey Stations; and their newly elected president, Dr. L. M. Hutchins, of the U. S. D. A. Bureau of Plant Industry. Regional representatives for the New England, Middle Atlantic, Southern, Upper Mississippi Valley and Pacific Divisions and representatives for plant quarantine, research, extension and fungicide manufacture were also designated. A ten-