ing his intention of paying his respects to the said grandmother in due course. Chapter I introduces us to some of his boyhood pranks, which read much more amusingly when the dangers and embarrassments associated with them are known to have passed. In Chapter 2 we trace his four years at Harvard, we breathe a sigh of relief at the evident intervention of Providence which prevented him from blowing up the chemical laboratory, we find him transporting himself into the realms of fantasy through an effort to enlarge his experience by swallowing a suitable quantity of oriental drugs and thus transforming himself in his own imagination into a fox, and finally we see him safely graduated in 1891, to the relief and surprise, as it is recorded, of his family and probably some of the faculty as well, many of whom, it is confessed, he must have infuriated beyond words. In the third chapter we find him at Johns Hopkins with the idea of securing a Ph.D. degree. We see him spitting out metallic sodium into street puddles to the great consternation of the darkies who, seeing him thus spit that which turns to fire, believed him to be a reincarnation of the devil himself. We read of his courtship of the future Mrs. Wood and of its practical turn in devising a specialized form of hot water bottle, depending upon a mixture of sulfuric acid and water, for the purpose of keeping her hands warm. We find him leaving Johns Hopkins without the degree for which he went there and going to the University of Chicago, where we learn of his grievances in the laboratory of Professor E. H. Schneider, from whom, however, he parted without mortality on either side. He completes his thesis for his Ph.D. degree in chemistry, but changes in the requirements in physics prevent him from completing that degree and result in his leaving in high dudgeon. Next we find him in Berlin where, as a result of some of his pranks, only his legs save him from official incarceration as a guest of the government. We find him trying out everything, including gliding, and nearly breaking his neck in the process. In 1897 he assumes the academically humble and poorly paid post of junior instructor of physics at the University of Wisconsin, where, however, advancement comes to him for his ingenious exploit in using the city's electric power supply to thaw out the city's water mains in winter. Later, in the same university, we find him beginning some of the spectroscopic work for which he was to become so famous.

Following the death of Henry Roland in 1901, Wood became professor of experimental physics at Johns Hopkins University where, supplemented by the work performed at his summer laboratory at East Hampton, he continued to enhance his reputation so well established in optics. The narrative is filled with anecdotes pertinent to this period, one of the most celebrated being that concerned with the cleaning of cobwebs from the interior of his long spectroscope, which action was performed by driving the family cat through the tube, a procedure which, as one might surmise, he did not fail to publish in the *Philosophical Magazine*. We read of his trips to Europe, of his subtle tiffs with certain Continental physicists and of his dramatic and perhaps a little hard-hearted procedure of exposing the myth of Blondlot's N-rays. We read of the background surrounding his humorous writings, notably his celebrated book "How to Tell the Birds from the Flowers." The war period is covered, and one senses that Wood's temperament was evidently not very well adapted to military procedures. We read of his exploits in the debunking of frauds and of his driving the celebrated medium, Margery, into hysterics. We learn of his exploits in the capacity of a scientific detective and of his solution of several criminal mysteries. Finally, we learn of his exploits as a boomerang thrower and of his confidence of his own skill in hurling a war boomerang right at the spectators of a football match, happily without fatality.

All in all, the book will provide entertaining reading for any one and particularly for those who have known Dr. Wood in the flesh and who, of their own experience, can enhance the setting of some of the amusing stories told.

W. F. G. SWANN

BARTOL RESEARCH FOUNDATION OF
THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

SOCIETIES AND MEETINGS

THE IOWA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

THE fifty-sixth annual meeting of the Iowa Academy of Science was held at Iowa Wesleyan College, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, on April 17 and 18, with 195 registered members and visitors attending. The academy was officially welcomed to the Iowa Wesleyan campus by President Stanley B. Niles, who at the same time reviewed the history, accomplishments and objectives of Iowa Wesleyan College, which was celebrating the centenary of its founding. The presidential address by President Roy A. Nelson, of Cornell College, following the welcome, ably developed the topic "Science in a Changing World." Then Dr. Walter F. Loehwing, of the State University of Iowa, presented an interesting discussion of the physiology of plant growth and development.

A joint symposium on industrial hygiene was held with the Iowa Medical Society on Friday afternoon.

The topic "Industrial Hygiene Problems in Iowa" was discussed by Dr. Paul J. Houser, director of hygiene, Iowa State Department of Health; "Air-Borne Infection," by Dr. Roland Rooks, of the Department of Hygiene and Preventive Medicine, State University of Iowa. There were 128 paid admissions to the academy dinner on Friday night. After dinner Dr. Thomas F. Vance, of Iowa State College, made a sparkling address on "Sense and Nonsense Amid the Scientific." The academy address of Friday night was delivered by Dr. George E. Stoddard, of the State University of Iowa, on the subject "New Light on Intelligence," a review of recent work on the "Nature-Nurture" problem.

The academy met as usual in sections on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning to listen to the presentation of 123 papers. Three of these papers appeared in the symposium of the Science Teaching section. The speakers and subjects were as follows: E. W. Lindstrom, Iowa State College, "Teaching to Think *in* a Field Rather than *about* It"; W. H. Bragonier, Iowa State College, "The Use of the Standard Partial Regression Coefficient in Constructing General Botany Achievement Tests"; W. F. Loehwing, State University of Iowa, "Teaching of General Botany—Appraisal and Forecast."

The 1943 meeting will be held at Cedar Falls, Iowa, on the third Friday and Saturday of April. The officers and section chairmen for the new year are as follows: *President,* C. W. Lantz, Cedar Falls; *Vice-President,* E. R. Smith, Ames; *Secretary-Treasurer,* E. R. Becker, Ames; Editor, L. R. Wilson, Cedar Rapids; botany, W. E. Loomis, Ames; chemistry, general and physical, D. L. Deardorff, Mt. Pleasant; chemistry, organic and biological, F. B. Moreland, Iowa City; geology, E. J. Cable, Cedar Falls; mathematics, N. B. Conkwright, Iowa City; physics, L. T. Earls, Ames; psychology, H. F. Brandt, Des Moines; science teaching, Karl A. Stiles, Cedar Rapids; zoology, Leland P. Johnson, Des Moines.

E. R. BECKER,
Secretary

AMES, IOWA

REPORTS

REGULATIONS CONCERNING LABORATORY EQUIPMENT

THE Division of Industry Operations of the War Production Board has issued the following regulations in regard to the manufacture and use of laboratory equipment:

Because of the critical shortage of scientific equipment, university and other private laboratories engaged in research work unrelated to the production of materials, or in other research not directly connected with the war effort, will be unable to secure new laboratory equipment unless the particular use is approved by the Director of Industry Operations.

This is the result of Limitation Order L–144, issued to-day (June 12). The order prohibits the sale and delivery of laboratory equipment except for certified essential uses in order to save highly critical materials and to make certain that such equipment will be available for vital war purposes.

In addition to making special provision for the handling of requests for equipment for uses not specifically permitted, the order permits any laboratory or other user to obtain repair parts and operating supplies for maintenance of existing equipment and activities.

The regulations, which will affect 600 manufacturers and 3,000 laboratories, prohibit the sale, delivery, renting or purchase of laboratory equipment in which any of the following materials are contained: aluminum, chromium, copper, iron, magnesium, molybdenum, nickel, steel, tantalum, tin, titanium, any alloy of these metals, rubber, any synthetic rubber, or non-cellulose base synthetic plastics.

In order to buy or sell laboratory equipment containing the above materials, a certification must be made by a duly authorized official of the purchasing company or laboratory stating that the equipment will be used only for one of the following purposes:

1. Research on, or analysis of, materials.

2. Research by or for Government agencies or "Lend-Lease" countries.

3. For training of personnel for the Army and Navy or other Government Departments or "Lend-Lease" countries.

4. To the extent necessary for the replacement of essential existing equipment in laboratories affecting the public health, and in Federal, State and local government laboratories.

5. To the extent necessary for repair parts and operating supplies for maintenance of existing essential equipment and activities in laboratories.

6. For any use which the Director of Industry Operations determines necessary and appropriate in the public interest.

Determinations of the uses which will be permitted under item (6) will be made by E. R. Schaeffer, Chief of the Safety and Technical Equipment Branch, acting for the Director of Industry Operations. Mr. Schaeffer has been named Administrator of the L–144 Order, and authorized to approve, after consultation with the Army and Navy Munitions Board, further uses of laboratory equipment which may be necessary.

Manufacturers will obtain the necessary amounts of critical materials for purposes permitted by the order by filing PD–25A applications under the Production Requirements Plan. Distributors, wholesalers and jobbers