SOCIETIES AND MEETINGS

THE AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

THE forty-eighth summer meeting of the American Mathematical Society was held at Vassar College, from September 8 to 10, in conjunction with meetings of the Mathematical Association of America and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics. The attendance was about three hundred, including a hundred ninety-seven members of the society.

The Colloquium on "Topology of Manifolds" consisted of four lectures of one hour each delivered by Professor R. L. Wilder, of the University of Michigan. An invited address on "Transformations with Periodic Properties" was given by Professor W. L. Ayres, of Purdue University. A symposium on "The Applicability of Mathematical Statistics to the War Effort" was held jointly with the Institute of Mathematical Statistics. This symposium consisted of two addresses, "Statistical Prediction with Special Reference to the Problem of Tolerance Limits," by Professor S. S. Wilks, of Princeton University, and "On the Nature of Mathematical Statistics in Quality Control," by Dr. W. E. Deming, of the U. S. Department of Commerce, together with discussions by Professor J. H. Curtiss, of Cornell University, and Dean Walter Bartky, of the University of Chicago. Eighty-nine papers on current research were presented, 34 in person and 55 by title. Nine of those presented in person at a joint session of the society and the institute dealt with problems of mathematical statistics.

The buildings and facilities of Vassar College were made available to members and their guests.

T. R. HOLLCROFT,
Associate Secretary

THE ARKANSAS ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

THE twenty-sixth annual meeting of the Arkansas Academy of Science was held at State A. and M. College, Monticello, on Friday and Saturday, May 1 and 2.

Papers were grouped in two sections, namely, a physical science and a biological science section but read in a joint session. The evening session was devoted to a round-table discussion on science teaching.

Owing to transportation difficulties and other war-connected difficulties, the far eastern state trip proved to be somewhat of a handicap for normal attendance. About thirty-five heard a total of sixteen papers. Mr. R. J. Anderson, acting state geologist, who discussed "Strategic Mineral Resources of Arkansas," provided the special feature of the program. The factory trips scheduled for Saturday morning had to be abandoned, because of war-time restrictions on visits to factories working on war contracts.

The academy published its first volume of "Proceedings of the Arkansas Academy of Science" in May of this year. This volume contains an early history of the academy, a copy of the constitution and by-laws, past officers and members, as well as papers presented at the twenty-fifth annual meeting of the academy held in 1941 at Henderson State Teachers College.

Officers elected for 1943 are as follows:

President, L. B. Roberts, Monticello; *Vice-president,* C. E. Abbott, Searcy; *Secretary,* L. B. Ham, Fayetteville; *Treasurer,* T. L. Smith, Clarksville; *Editor,* D. M. Moore, Fayetteville. This is the fifth of a five-year term for the secretary.

L. B. HAM,
Secretary

SPECIAL ARTICLES

VITAMIN C IN THE WAR

WE know that Germany has, for a few years, been using vitamins for special fighting forces. Great Britain, too, has been alert to the value of vitamins A, B_1 and C as aids to the war effort. We must do more than supply our own armed forces with a vitamin-rich diet. Under certain severe conditions soldiers may need dietary supplements of certain vitamins.

This is especially true of vitamin C, ascorbic acid, of which the United States used 17 tons in 1940 and may soon reach an annual output (synthetic) of 100 tons. However, our allies are getting much of this.

LOSS IN PERSPIRATION

Vitamin C is destroyed by infection and by a number of industrial poisons of a military nature. It is also lost in appreciable quantities in heavy perspiration.[1] One important industrial organization, observing many heat prostrations under very hot working conditions, adopted the practice of giving each worker daily a tablet containing vitamins C and B_1 and common salt (all lost to some extent in perspiration). Improvement in general vigor was most encouraging —and there were no more heat prostrations. Similar conditions often exist in war areas in the tropics and in North Africa. The function of the vitamin C may go beyond mere replacement of the amount lost. It may combat heat shock.

SHOCK

Shock results from a number of causes, so vitamin C therapy ought to be considered in all such cases.

[1] R. E. Bernstein, *Nature,* 140: 684, 1937.