

pean conflagration. The first steps were taken in November, 1941, at Boston, but no final action could be taken to transfer the official sanction in Brussels to America without the concurrence and approval of all the affiliated branches in America.

The act by which the transference of the society was effected was signed either personally or by proxy by the delegates from all the affiliated societies of the Americas.

By action of the Council of Delegates, the official seat of the society will be established in the Inter-American Division of the New York Academy of Medicine, directed by Dr. Mahlon Ashford, where Dr. Enrique J. Cervantes, assistant secretary-treasurer of the executive committee, editor of *America Clinica*, the official organ of the society, and editor and secretary of the Hispanic-American Medical Society, will be able to render service to the fellows of the society and to medical visitors coming from the Latin American countries.

The affairs of the society will be administered by an executive committee composed of Dr. Elliott C. Cutler, Col. M. C., U. S. Army, *chairman in absentia*, Dr. Eugene Pool, Dr. Arthur W. Allen and Dr. Matas.

A meeting held on February 12 was presided over by Dr. Eugene Pool, who serves as acting chairman of the executive committee for the United States, in the absence of Colonel Elliott C. Cutler, now at the front. Dr. José Arce, dean of the University of Buenos Aires, is serving as acting president in the absence of Professor L. Meyer, of Brussels, detained in Belgium by Nazi compulsion.

A revision of the constitution prepared by Dr. Matas was adopted in November and a representative group of fellows from New York and elsewhere signed the act of reorganization, as witnesses of the signing of the act by the delegates of the governing council. These included Dr. Mahlon Ashford, director of the Inter-American Division of the academy, and Dr. Archibald Malloch, librarian of the New York Academy of Medicine; as fellows and guests were Drs. Walter Estell Lee, of Philadelphia; Russell S. Fowler, Ralph Colp, Edwin G. Ramsdell, Frederick W. Bancroft, Howard Lillienthal, Charles Elsborg, Seward Erdman, Carl Eggers, Henry Lyle, and others elsewhere by proxy.

GENETICS IN THE U. S. S. R.

FOLLOWING are the essential parts of a letter written to Dr. M. Demerec, the Carnegie Institution, Cold Spring Harbor, New York, by Dr. S. Gershenson at Ufa, U. S. S. R., on July 6, and received by registered mail on November 20:

My laboratories, both in the Institute of Zoology of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian S.S.R. and in

the Kiev State University were, like all other scientific institutions, safely evacuated from Kiev. At present the first of them, where I am working, is in Ufa (Ural), the second in Kzyl-Orda (Middle Asia). All our laboratory equipment is with us, but we lost all our *Drosophila* stocks, among which were some very valuable ones (*e.g.*, a collection of over 100 mutant genes of *D. buscki*, most of which were already mapped, collections of mutant genes from wild populations of *D. funebris*, *D. melanogaster*, etc.), and both our laboratory and private libraries are also lost. This latter loss is especially painful, and I should be greatly obliged to you and to all American geneticists whom I would kindly request you to inform on the subject, for sending of not only the reprints of new works appearing out of press, but also for sending of all old reprints which you can spare. . . .

At present we are actively occupied with selection, breeding and genetics of the oak silk-worm and of cattle. Besides this work on economically important objects, I continue to study the distribution and dynamics of melanism in the hamster—a work that I have been leading during the last three years, and which has already given some interesting results concerning the mechanism of natural selection and the origin of lower taxonomic units. I am also working on some theoretical genetical-evolutionary questions.

Please extend my best regards to my colleagues. Kindly tell them as well as other American geneticists that we are trying here to help all we can in the great fight against fascism and that we unanimously believe in a complete victory over our common foe. We all greatly welcome the recent agreement between U. S. A. and U. S. S. R. and trust that it will lead, among other important results, also to the further development of scientific relations between our countries.

Information received from the Embassy of the U. S. S. R., in reply to inquiries, indicates that books and reprints can be sent by mail in small packages addressed directly to the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian S. S. R. in Ufa. If, however, the material is very bulky and can only be sent in packing cases, it would be advisable to send it by sea. In that case, the Embassy will be glad to send shipping directions if the weight and dimensions are supplied.

THE ST. LOUIS MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF AGRONOMY

THE thirty-fifth annual meeting of the American Society of Agronomy was held in the Hotel Statler in St. Louis, Missouri, on November 11, 12 and 13. There were 393 members and guests registered in attendance. The meetings were held jointly with the Soil Science Society of America.

A general meeting was held on the morning of November 12, with President Richard Bradfield presiding. Papers were presented by Dr. O. S. Aamodt and by Dr. Frank W. Parker, of the Bureau of Plant Industry. Following these papers a committee