

So much space is devoted to descriptions of diseases and to what should properly be considered hygiene rather than bacteriology that much of the subject-matter of microbiology has been omitted or treated very scantily. Such important groups as the anaerobes, the spirochaetes, the Actinomycetes and the autotrophic bacteria are barely mentioned, but there is a discussion of the per capita cost of soap in relation to hardness of water! One may question whether it is desirable to devote so much of the time of a supposedly cultural course to public health, especially when so many students now take college courses in preventive medicine. Such a presentation gives the student a very one-sided picture of microbiology, as though its relation to disease were its sole *raison d'être*.

For such teachers as wish to place the emphasis where this book places it, Dr. Birkeland's text can be recommended. It is very readable, enlivened here and there by bits of verse and anecdote, with much history of disease and sanitation. The reviewer was particularly tickled by the recommendation that the student

apply the principle of Koch's postulates to political problems. The style is clear and straightforward, the arrangement orderly. It should be a very easy book to study. The presentation is rather elementary, but in this respect the book is somewhat uneven. Thus the student is not expected to know anything about the structure of a cell, but is expected to know enough chemistry to follow the conversion of tryptophane to scatole and indole.

The teacher who uses this text-book will need to supplement it with a very complete laboratory manual, for it gives little of the technique of the bacteriologist. Particularly, there is not much discussion of the procedures by which species of bacteria are identified or distinguished. Here again the treatment is somewhat uneven. The student is told, for instance, how to distinguish caprine, porcine and bovine strains of *Brucella*, but not how to separate *Escherichia coli* from *Aerobacter aerogenes*. However, such deficiencies can be readily made up in an adequate laboratory course.

ARTHUR T. HENRICI

SOCIETIES AND MEETINGS

NORTH CAROLINA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

THE forty-second meeting of the North Carolina Academy of Science was held at Duke University on April 30 and May 1. Approximately eighty papers were presented in addition to two symposia related to the war. The first symposium was on "Health and the War," the second on "Nutrition in War Time." The meeting was exceptionally well attended in spite of war restrictions and proved interesting and profitable to the membership. About forty-five new members were added to the roll, and a number of former members were reinstated after a lapse of several years of non-membership.

The following officers were elected: *President*, M. L. Braun, Catawba College; *Vice-President*, Mary E. Yarborough, Meredith College; *New Member of the Executive Committee*, E. H. Hall, of the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina. Bert Cunningham, of Duke University, continues as secretary. Section officers elected are:

Section	Chairman	Secretary
Botany	F. A. Wolf	E. C. Cocks
Geology	W. F. Prouty	Willard Berry
Physics	W. E. Speas	N. Rosen
Psychology	Elizabeth Duffy	K. Zener
Wild Life	John D. Findley	R. O. Stevens
Zoology	G. T. Hargitt	Eva G. Campbell
Biochemistry	H. W. Ferrill	J. C. Andrews

H. S. Perry was selected to receive the Poteat

Award for his noteworthy paper on "Control of Starchy Contamination in Sweet Corn by the Use of the 'Gamete' Gene."

Two awards were made to high-school students—one to Robert Anderson for his essay entitled "Fire in the American Forests" and the other to Donald Hartzog for his exhibition in photography, which included portrait enlargements, stills and microphotographs.

The academy selected State College at Raleigh as the next meeting place.

From the standpoints of interest, attendance and worth of papers, this meeting is considered by many members to be one of the best the academy has had.

BERT CUNNINGHAM, *Secretary*

KENTUCKY ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

THE thirtieth annual meeting of the Kentucky Academy of Science was held at the University of Louisville, April 23 and 24, in five divisional meetings and two general sessions. Affiliated groups represented were Biology, Kentucky Branch, Society of American Bacteriologists and Kentucky Society of Natural History, in joint session; Chemistry; Geology; Psychology and Philosophy; Physics, Astronomy and Mathematics, in joint session. Forty-two papers were read including that of the president, Dr. J. T. Skinner, on "Some Functions of Mineral Elements in Connection with Enzymatic Action," before the