

and applied science in the Island, the holding of an annual session and the dissemination of scientific knowledge. Membership in the association consists of three classes: foundation members, sessional members and student members.

D. N. Wadia, mineralogist of the Ceylon Government and a former president of the Indian Science Congress, was elected general president of the association, and Dr. V. Gabriel, senior surgeon, General Hospital, Colombo, was chosen the president-elect.

For the purpose of discussion at the annual session the following sections have been formed: (1) *Medical and Veterinary Sciences*, President, Professor W. A. E. Karunaratne; (2) *Agriculture*, President, Dr. R. V. Norris; (3) *Engineering*, President, Professor R. H. Paul; (4) *Natural Sciences*, President, The Very Reverend Fr. M. J. Le Goc; (5) *Physical Sciences*, President, Professor A. Kandiah. Officers for an additional section, in which psychology, social sciences and education will be included, had not yet been elected.

It is proposed to hold the first session of the association as early as possible in the coming year.

"GENERA ET SPECIES PLANTARUM ARGENTINARUM"

THE first volume of this great projected work appeared late in 1943 under the editorship of Dr. Horacio R. Descole, director of the Instituto Lillo of the University of Tucuman, and published by Guillermo Kraft Ltda., Buenos Aires. An elephant folio of three hundred and seventeen pages with four-inch margins, bound in natural finished buckram, its format and typography are somewhat in the classical tradition of such works as "Flora Brasiliensis." Volume I contains comprehensive treatments of the Argentine representatives of three families: the Zygophyllaceae, by H. R. Descole, C. A. O'Donnell, and A. Lourteig; the Cactaceae, by A. Castellanos and H. V. LeLong, and the Euphorbiaceae, by A. Lourteig and C. A. O'Donnell. One hundred and eight pages of line drawings, ten pages of colored plates and fifteen pages of photographs with twenty distributional maps illustrate and supplement the discussions of these families. Appended are eleven colored plates of "Ícones Plantarum Argentinarum."

Dr. Descole informs me that Volumes II and III will be published this year, one of them dealing exclusively with Argentine Gramineae by Dr. Castellanos. Additional volumes are in preparation. Apparently contributions by foreign botanists will, in certain instances at least, be included since the treatment of the genus *Nicotiana* is to be prepared in this laboratory.

The character and quality of the first volume of this outstanding contribution to South American botany is a tribute to the stature and maturity which

plant taxonomy and geography have attained in Argentina and to the enthusiasm and scholarship of Dr. Descole and his associates in the Instituto Lillo.

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THE MINNESOTA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

DUE to conditions brought about by the war the customary fall meeting and outing of the Minnesota Academy of Science have been dispensed with again this year.

The twelfth annual meeting convened on April 22 at the University of Minnesota. The following officers were elected for the year 1944-45: *President*, Dr. Charles Sheard, Mayo Foundation, Rochester; *Vice-president*, Dr. John E. Anderson, University of Minnesota; *Councilor*, 1944-1948, Sister Magna Werth, College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph. As retiring president of the academy Dr. George A. Thiel, University of Minnesota, became a member of the council for two years.

At the general morning program of the annual meeting three papers dealing especially with the post-war era were read.

The afternoon was devoted to the programs of the various sections. Dr. Dwight E. Minnich, of the department of zoology of the University of Minnesota, was chairman of the Section for Biological Science, at which nine papers were presented. Seven papers were read before the Section for Physical Science, with Andrew Hustrulid, agricultural engineering, University Farm, St. Paul, presiding. O. A. Nelson, Central High School, St. Paul, was chairman of the Section for Science Education, where five papers were read. The Section for Social Science, of which Dr. Lowry Nelson, sociology, University Farm, St. Paul, was chairman, heard reports from seven men of the University of Minnesota staff on "The Impact of the War on Red Wing, Minnesota." These men and others are making a comprehensive study of Red Wing as it has been affected by the war.

Tallies at the registration desk indicated an attendance of over 160.

Simultaneously the Minnesota Junior Academy of Science held its seventh annual meeting. The newly elected officers were: *President*, Miss Jean Drum, North High School, Minneapolis; *Vice-president*, Bruce Clark, St. Cloud Technical High School; *Secretary-Treasurer*, Miss Theresa Mulrean, St. Cloud Technical High School. Wesley Zimmerman, Paynesville High School, and Jack Anderson, Stillwater High School, were chosen for American Association for the Advancement of Science awards for 1944 because of their meritorious work in science. Ten papers were presented at the morning session. The afternoon was devoted to observing science exhibits, the showing of science movies and a tour of the Nat-